



Toner Avenue School
Tradition Achievement Success

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Updated: September 2020

Review: July 2021

COVID 19 AMENDMENT included in case of further Local or National Lockdowns / Cases of self – isolation. Originally ammended 30th March 2020 following Coronavirus (Covid 19) Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

September 2020

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on _____
It is due for review in July 2021.

The Covid-19 Addendum will be reviewed in light of any new guidance from Local Authority and / or Local Government.

Head Teacher:	Date:
Chair of Governors:	Date:



Contacts

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD : MR. M. ARTHUR head@toneravenue.s-tyneside.sch.uk	0191 4202588
DEPUTY DESIGNATED LEAD : MRS. C. HUTCHINSON chutchinson@toneravenue.s-tyneside.sch.uk	0191 4202588
GOVERNOR FOR SAFEGUARDING : Mr G Mansbridge George.Mansbridge@southtyneside.gov.uk	0191 4202588
SENIOR EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER / SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: MR. R.SAUNDERS russ.saunders@southtyneside.gov.uk	0191 4246332
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH DUTY TEAM : ISIT-referrals@southtyneside.gov.uk	0191 4245010
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM:	0191 4564473
CHILDREN'S STANDARDS UNIT AND LADO FOR ALLEGATIONS MANAGEMENT: MRS. J. HUGHES	0191 4246316
DESIGNATED OFFICER FOR PREVENT: MR. G. LITTLEWOOD graeme.littlewood@southtyneside.gov.uk	0191 4247935
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD BUSINESS MGR (CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION); MRS. J. NOLAN Jacqueline.Nolan@southtyneside.gov.uk	0191 424 6513
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD BUSINESS SUPPORT: MRS . L. HODGSON lynn.hodson@southtyneside.gov.uk	0191 424 6513
NORTH AND SOUTH OF TYNE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIPS PROCEDURES MANUAL: https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/	



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Introduction

This Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Guidelines applies to all staff, volunteers, Governors and users of Toner Avenue School and anyone carrying out any work for us or using our premises.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is defined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2019 (p5)* as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical 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.

It is our duty to have arrangements about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children introduced by section 175 of the *Education Act 2002* which came into force on 1 June 2004.

At Toner Avenue we are committed to ensuring that children are safe and protected from all forms of abuse and neglect. The welfare of our children is paramount.

All children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. We believe that no child or group of children should be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services which meet their particular needs. We endeavour to put the child at the centre of the procedures and systems outlined in this policy.

We recognise our responsibility to respond appropriately and, with respect to children and young people, to work with other agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those groups with whom we have contact and to have clear guidelines for our procedures.

This policy outlines the systems and procedures in place to ensure that:

- children are protected from possible harmful situations through our commitment to safe recruitment, selection and vetting
- staff are able to identify causes for concern about a child's welfare and take appropriate action to keep them safe
- we contribute to effective partnership working between all those involved in providing services for children and young people.
- children are protected from the risk of radicalisation whether from within their family or from outside influences.

This policy is available to all staff, parents and visitors at all times. It is shared with staff annually and is shared as part of the induction process for new staff or volunteers to ensure



they are familiar with the guidelines and understand their responsibilities.

As part of this review or induction, staff are also required to read the following relevant documents:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 20) [Parts 1 and 5] and Annex A, Annex C and Annex F
- School behaviour policy
- School Sex and Relationships Policy

An electronic copy is available on the school website and a copy is also saved on the school's internal network.

All staff are required to sign to confirm they have received, read, understand and agree to the policy and related documents.

As part of this induction process and annual review it is important that all members of staff, volunteers, Governors etc. understand that all concerns and allegations must be taken seriously and be responded to appropriately as outlined in this policy. **ALL STAFF MUST HAVE A 'IT CAN' HAPPEN HERE ATTITUDE. ABUSE IS ABUSE AND SHOULD NEVER BE TOLERATED OR PASSED OFF AS 'BANTER', 'JUST HAVING A LAUGH' OR 'PART OF GROWING UP'**

Similarly, parents must understand that we have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare as set out in this policy. This policy is available to parents through via our website and parents may request a copy at any time.

The policy does not stand-alone and needs to be seen as part of an holistic approach to keeping children safe. The policy needs to be read in conjunction with other related policies and documents as listed below. Staff are made aware of these documents and how to access them.

School Policies and Documents	Government and Local Authority Documents
Acceptable Use Policies (Staff and Pupils) Attendance Policy Anti-Bullying Policy Behaviour Policy Dealing with Racist Incidents Policy Drug and Solvent Abuse Policy Recruitment Policy Health and Safety Policy Sex and Relationships Education Policy Special Educational and Disability Policy Educational Visit Policy Staff Handbook	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf (amended Feb 19) The Prevent Duty (June 2015) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf



<p>Home School Agreement KCSIE / Kidsafe</p>	<p>Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2015 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf</p> <p>Keeping Children Safe in Education (Statutory from September 20) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/828312/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf</p> <p>NORTH AND SOUTH OF TYNE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIPS PROCEDURES MANUAL: https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/</p> <p>Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512906/Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_FINAL.pdf</p> <p>Kidsafe https://www.kidsafeuk.co.uk/</p> <p>Public Health England - keeping young people safe and well. https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2017/06/22/learning-more-about-what-keeps-young-people-safe-and-well/</p> <p>Multi-agency statutory guidance on child sexual exploitation https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners https://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool</p>
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	<p>NSPCC - Protecting disabled children from abuse. https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/right-safe-disabled-children-abuse-report.pdf</p> <p>Additional safeguarding resources http://ictinschools.org/e-safeguarding-conference-2017/</p> <p>County Lines: Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. https://www.gov.uk/government/publication/s/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/county-lines-criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults</p>
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The policy is reviewed on an annual basis although it will be updated as and when legislation changes.

The role of the school

We recognise that for our pupils, high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with a trusted adult helps to prevent abuse. At Toner Avenue, we will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where pupils feel safe and secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure that pupils know that there are adults within the school who they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty.
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PHSE to allow them to explore sensitive or controversial issues and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to, “understand and manage difficult situations, to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing.” (*The Prevent Duty, June 2015*). At Toner Avenue, we deliver the Kidsafe programme across the school.
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities to learn skills to ensure they are safe when online including the ability to develop critical thinking skills around power of influence, particularly on-line and through social media
- Include in the curriculum material which will help pupils develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, providing a safe environment for debating controversial



issues and helping pupils to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making within the context of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the promotion of fundamental British Values.

- Ensure that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from partner agencies.
- Ensure that any visiting speakers are suitable and appropriately supervised.
- Ensure that children who display behaviour suggesting they may be experiencing mental health difficulties (or be at risk of developing one) are swiftly signposted to appropriate support within school – (Nurture, ELSA) or external services (Healthy Minds Team, Lifecycles, CYPS).
- Ensure that staff are aware of how abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences (ACES) can potentially impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.
- Ensure that all staff are adequately trained in all areas of Child Protection and that there is a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr Michael Arthur) and a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Claire Hutchinson)** who can provide advice and support to members of staff as required. **(0191 4202588)**. The designated lead (and deputy) will be responsible for managing referrals, working with other agencies and undergoing appropriate training to ensure they have the knowledge and understanding to undertake the role. The designated person will also ensure that information is shared with other professionals as required, including when children leave our school.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr Arthur) has the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and this is explicit in his job description. Further details can be found in KCSiE 2020, Annex B).
- Both the DSL and DDSL will liaise with the three safeguarding partners and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children-2>). NSPCC – When to call the police (<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Children%20and%20Young%20people/When%20to%20call%20the%20police%20guidance%20for%20schools%20and%20colleges.pdf>) will be used to help the DSL understand when to contact the police and what to expect when they do.
- During term time, DSL and/ or DDSL will be always available for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. This also applies for any out of hours or out of term activities (e.g residential trips).
- The DSL and DDSL will undergo training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training will be updated every two years. In addition to this training, knowledge and skills will be updated (for example, via e-bulletins, meeting other DSLs or taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, and at least annually to keep up with any developments relevant to the role.

The role of the Governing Body

Governing bodies are accountable for ensuring their establishment has effective policies and procedures in place.



Governing bodies should ensure that:

- The school has a children protection policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with local authority guidance
- The school operates safe recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers that work with children
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the Local Authority
- A senior member of the school's leadership team is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, providing support and advice to other staff, liaising with the Local Authority and working with other agencies
- There is a named Governor for safeguarding – **Mr George Mansbridge - 0191 4202588**
- In addition to basic child protection training, the designated person undertakes training in inter-agency working that is provided by, or to the standards agreed by, the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and refresher training at two yearly intervals to keep their knowledge and skills up to date.
- All other staff who work with children undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out responsibilities for child protection effectively and that this is kept up to date by refresher training at three yearly intervals
- All policies and procedures are reviewed annually.

Records of Staff Training will be held in the Safeguarding Training File (See Appendix 2)

SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES

The systems and procedures provide clear step-by-step guidance on what to do in different circumstances and clearly identify roles and responsibilities.

All staff are aware of, and have access to the Safeguarding Partnerships Procedures Manual online for reference.

NORTH AND SOUTH OF TYNE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIPS PROCEDURES MANUAL:

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/>

All schools must keep and maintain a Single Central Record of recruitment and vetting checks. This record should also include all others who have been chosen to work in regular contact with children.

Where reasonably possible, we aim to ensure that we have at least 2 contacts for each child in case of emergencies. This will ensure that we are always able to contact parents in case of emergencies.

What is 'abuse'?

'Abuse and neglect' is a generic term encompassing all ill treatment of children, including serious physical and sexual assaults as well as cases where the standard of care does not



adequately support the child's health or development. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing in education and sexting all put children in danger.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a vulnerable person. Somebody may abuse a child by inflicting harm or by failing to prevent harm.

Children may be abused in the family or an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. An adult or adults or another child may abuse them. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse.

Peer on Peer abuse

Staff should also bear in mind that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. 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 and sexual harassment
- Sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery and
- Initiation / hazing type of violence and rituals.
- Up skirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their buttocks or genitals to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.

Where there is a concern that peer on peer abuse taking place (or has potential to take place), staff should seek advice immediately from the designated safeguarding lead and make appropriate records, following the guidance stated below. The designated lead will share information with parents and or liaise with external agencies as appropriate

Serious Violence

All staff should be aware of the indicators which may signal that a child is at risk from or is involved in serious 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.

Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 sets out definitions and examples of the four broad categories of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation – (CCE) and sexting as detailed above)
- Neglect



These categories overlap and an abused person does frequently suffer more than one type of abuse, (e.g. a child may be suffering physical and emotional abuse). The definitions below encompass all groups covered by this policy. Children can also be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across within their day-to-day lives. These threats can include, (along with the four categories above), exploitation by criminal and organised crime groups; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism, leading to radicalisation. (Working Together (2018)

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child (KCSIE 2020).

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capacity, as well as over-protection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interactions. It may involve serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. 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 (KCSIE 2020).

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Sexual abuse can take place on line and technology can be used to facilitate off line abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.(KCSIE 2020).

Neglect

Neglect involves 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 and 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 and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical harm



or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs (*KCSIE 2020*).

N.B. Children need to be protected even when it appears that they are not aware that the physical abuse, or sexual activity that they are involved in or witness, or the neglect they experience, is harmful to them.

In addition to the four categories above, it is important to remember that our children are also susceptible to being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

Signs of Possible Abuse

When considering whether there is evidence to suggest a child has been abused, there are a number of possible indicators (listed below). However, there *may* be other explanations, so it is important not to jump to conclusions but rather seek advice from Children's Services or the Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit. There may also be no signs or symptoms; this does not mean that a report of abuse is false.

Indicators of Possible Physical Abuse

- Any injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries that occur to the body in places, which are not normally exposed to falls, rough games etc.
- Injuries that have not received medical attention
- Neglect – under nourishment, failure to grow, constant hunger, stealing or gorging food, untreated illnesses, inadequate care etc.
- Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming
- Repeated urinary infections or unexplained tummy pains.
- Bruises, bites, burns, fractures etc. that do not have an accidental explanation*
- Cuts/scratches/substance abuse*
- Changes in routine or presentation

Indicators of Possible Sexual Abuse

- Any allegations made by a person concerning sexual abuse
- Person with excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour, or who regularly engages in age-inappropriate sexual play
- Sexual activity through words, play or drawing
- Child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams or nightmares, sometimes with overt or veiled sexual connotations
- Eating disorders – anorexia, bulimia*
- Bed wetting and soiling



Indicators of Possible Emotional Abuse

- Changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clingy – also depression/aggression, extreme anxiety
- Nervousness, frozen watchfulness
- Obsessions or phobias
- Sudden under-achievement or lack of concentration
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults, carers or family
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Persistent tiredness
- Running away/stealing/lying

*** These signs may also indicate the possibility that a child is self-harming**

Indicators of Possible Child Sexual Exploitation

- going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late
- regularly missing school or not taking part in education
- appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- suffering from sexually transmitted infections
- mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing
- drug and alcohol misuse
- displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.

Indicators of Possible Radicalisation

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for



non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna.

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. **There is a mandatory duty on teachers to report disclosures about a female under 18.**

A girl or woman who's had FGM may:

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

County Lines: Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults

The term 'County Lines' refers to urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas, as well as market and coastal towns, by using dedicated mobile phone lines or 'deal lines'. Gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs or money to these areas. Once caught up in county lines, exploited individuals are at risk of extreme physical and / or sexual violence, gang recriminations and trafficking.

A person who is involved in county lines activity might show some of these signs:

- Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area.
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones.
- Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls.
- Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang associations.
- Parental concerns, and leaving home or care without explanation
- Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries.
- Significant decline in school performance and changes in emotional well-being.

Vulnerability is heightened by:

- Having prior experience of neglect, physical and / or sexual abuse.
- Lack of safe home environment, now or in the past (Domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality).
- Social isolation or social difficulties
- Economic vulnerability
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status
- Connections with other people involved in gangs.
- Having a physical or learning disability
- Having mental health or substance misuse issues
- Being in care
- Being excluded from mainstream education.
-

Key Points:

- Children as young as 12 (youngest recorded case), 15 – 16 year olds are most common age.
- Males and females are exploited in equal numbers.



- White British children (gangs perceive they are more likely to evade police detection).
- Class A drug users can be targeted so that gangs can take over their homes (known as cuckooing).
-

Staff should follow the safeguarding protocol if they suspect someone is involved in county lines.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age might be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability (see PUPILS WITH SEND below), physical strength, status and access to economic or other resources. In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and / or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males, or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and / or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and / or take place online.

CCE can occur even when there is no physical contact present (e.g. through the use of technology). It can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (County Lines), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or threaten other young people.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- Children who appear with new or unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- Children who misuse drugs or alcohol;
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late ; and
- Children who regularly miss school.

CSE victims may have been sexually exploited even the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. It can include both contact (penetrative or non—penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person’s immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media). The above CCE indicators can also be indicators of CSE, as can:

- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends; and
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.



Children with SEND

Particular attention needs to be given to those children with SEND as this can make children more vulnerable to abuse. This is partly due to their difficulties understanding what is right and wrong but can also be due to people making assumptions about the child based on their difficulties. They also can have issues both with communicating the problem and engagement with services.

Staff must be aware that behaviour, mood and injury of children may relate to possible abuse and not just their SEN or disability and should not make assumptions.

Staff must be aware that statistically, this group are at higher risk of social isolation, which in turn, may lead to them being more vulnerable

Staff must also be aware that bullying can often have a disproportionate impact on these children and that communication difficulties may hinder children's ability to make disclosures.

Within Toner Avenue, all staff are aware of these additional barriers and we have readily available pastoral support. Staff can refer children to undertake Nurture work or ELSA work (Emotional Literacy Support) at any point within the year. They should raise concerns with either Mr M Arthur, (Head) or Mrs C Hutchinson (Deputy and SENCO). Children are also able to access support via the Emotional Resilience team. Referrals should be made via the head or deputy.

(<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/right-safe-disabled-children-abuse-report.pdf>)

Children who are missing from education

Children who are missing from education (CME) are defined as: "children of compulsory school age who are not registered at a school and are not receiving suitable education..." Attendance is monitored closely and absences are chased up by phone call on the first day of absence. We endeavour to have at least 2 contact numbers for each pupil and will ring both. Where there are concerns relating to the attendance or safety of a child (e.g. if a child is subject to an Early Help / Child In Need / Child Protection Plan), absences are reported immediately to the Head / Deputy and passed on to the lead professional as appropriate.

Confirmation of changes of setting are kept on file and contact is made with the new school to ensure the transfer of information. Where there are concerns about the whereabouts of a child, guidance from the Local Authority (**Russ Saunders, 0191 4246332**) will be sought.

KCSiE / Kidsafe

Kidsafe is a national programme that is matched with Ofsted and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) requirements. The aims are; to enable pupils to protect themselves against all forms of abuse; to feel safe at all times in school and home; to know what constitutes unsafe situations and to be aware of how to keep safe, including in relation to e-safety. The programme, delivered by trained tutors, consists of 6 sessions giving pupils effective strategies to deal with all forms of child abuse. It is age appropriate and delivered in a manner conducive



for discussion. It is particularly useful in helping children with SEND break down any barriers they have with communicating their responses to specific situations. It is also a useful tool to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse.

Online Safety

As part of our work around safety, all children are taught about the potential risks which are included with being online. All children / parents sign an agreement which outlines appropriate online behaviour. The school has the Healthy Schools E Safety Award and staff are diligent when dealing with any concerns relating to the use of social media or online bullying or suspected abuse. Pupils should be just as clear about what is expected of them online as offline. Appropriate filtering and monitoring are in place through the local authority and the Head and Deputy are alerted to any online incidents where inappropriate text has been typed or searched for. Further details can be found in the acceptable use policy. Our Kidsafe Programme also covers keeping safe online.

Sex and relationships Education

Although SRE is not mandatory until September 2021, Toner Avenue chose to implement this from September 2019 through the One Life Scheme, provided by the Local Authority. All children will be educated as to what healthy, diverse and appropriate relationships are and how to build and sustain them, how to identify whether a relationship is safe, and how to seek help for themselves or others if they are concerned. Further details can be found in the Sex and Relationship Policy. Toner Avenue School works in partnership with the local school nurse team and Operation Encompass (the next steps) to further supplement this curriculum, tailored to the needs of specific cohorts as required.

Early Help

All staff are aware of the Early Help process in South Tyneside Local Authority and are required, where necessary to provide updates and information which will feed into plans. Any child may benefit from Early Help, but all staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for Early Help for a child who:

- is disabled or has specific additional needs
- has SEND (whether or not they have an Education Health and Care Plan)
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn in to antisocial or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- is frequently missing / goes missing from care or from home
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- has returned to their family from care
- is showing early signs of abuse or neglect
- is at risk of being exploited or radicalised
- Is a privately fostered child.

If staff feel that Early Help would be appropriate to support a child or family, they should



discuss it with the designated person.

Concerns of a General Nature/not Relating to a Specific Individual

There may be instances where concerns do not relate to a specific individual. It may be that there are concerns in respect of institutional abuse or neglect within a service, and this may affect a number of people who use that service.

Concerns do not need to be specific to an individual in order to alert. The Duty of Care remains the same whether alerting concerns involving one individual, several individuals or service-related issues that may affect many people.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'.

This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for **28 days or more**. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or by marriage/affinity).

To ensure that these children are being well cared for, it is a **legal requirement** that parents and carers notify their local authority before entering into these arrangements.

There is a mandatory duty for professionals to assist in the identifying and notifying the Local Authority of any children living in these circumstances. **This is a key part of everyone's safeguarding responsibility.** If you become aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement you must notify the Designated Person immediately.

Looked after children and previously looked after children

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and or neglect. These children can be particularly vulnerable and it is important that information regarding these children is shared, on a need to know basis, with close inter agency working. The school has a Designated Teacher (Mrs C Hutchinson) who works with the Virtual Head to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are looked after, have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders.

Volunteers/Students

Under no circumstances should volunteers / students be left to work unsupervised with children unless they have a DBS check certificate which has been verified by the school office. The Head / Deputy must be notified prior to any volunteers starting work in school and they must be recorded on the SCR.

Governors

Governors are required to have an enhanced criminal records certificate from the DBS. If governors are engaging in regulated activity, they will also need a barred list check.



Contractors

Schools must ensure that any contractor, or any employee of the contractor has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check, particularly if they are engaging in regulated activity. Whilst the contractors will be within the compound during the build stage, staff should be extra vigilant during this time and ensure children are safeguarded at all times.

What to do if there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare.

It is recognised that a child may seek out an adult to share information about abuse or neglect with, or talk spontaneously either individually or in groups when an adult is present. In these situations staff members or volunteers must:

- Listen carefully to the child or adult, and NOT directly question them.
- Give the child or adult time and attention.
- Allow the child or adult to give a spontaneous account; do not stop them when they are freely recalling significant events.
- Make an accurate record of the information given taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, the child's presentation as well as what was said. Do not throw this away as it may later be needed as evidence.
- Use the child's own words where possible.
- Explain that they cannot promise not to speak to others about the information they have shared.

Reassure the child that:

- You are glad they have told you;
- S/he has not done anything wrong;
- What you are going to do next;
- Explain that you will need to get help to keep them safe;
- You must NOT ask the child or adult to repeat his or her account of events to anyone.

What to do next:

- Make an immediate, careful record of what has been said using the child's words wherever possible, creating CPOMS incident. All staff have been provided with a log in account and training. If, for some reason a CPOMS incident can not be created, then a written safeguarding concern form should be completed.
- Inform the Designated Child Protection Lead **IMMEDIATELY**. They will make the decision based on the evidence (plus possible future discussion with the child where appropriate) whether Social Care should be informed.
- Record in writing the fact you have made a referral to the Designated Child Protection Lead.

It is important that staff recognise their role is not to investigate any possible abuse but rather



to inform the Designated Person so that the relevant authorities can be notified. Information should always be passed to the designated person (or deputy) immediately as they potentially will have contextual understanding that staff may not be privy to.

Consulting about the concern

The purpose of consultation is to discuss concerns in relation to a child and decide what action is necessary. Staff or volunteers may become concerned about a child who has not spoken to them, because of something they have observed, or information they have heard about a child.

If a child is upset or has a visible injury it is good practice to ask them why they are upset or how a cut or bruise was caused, or respond to a child who wants to talk. This practice can help clarify vague concerns and result in appropriate action.

If staff members are concerned about a child they must share their concerns immediately. Initially they should talk to the Head Teacher (Mr Michael Arthur), who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Concerns should also be recorded in writing using the Safeguarding Concern document (Appendix 2) and passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as practical on the same day.

Immediate Action

Immediate action may be necessary at any stage in involvement with children, and families.

It is always good practice to be as open and honest as possible with parents/carers about any concerns.

IN ALL CASES IT IS VITAL TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD A CHILD, THIS MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- If emergency medical attention is required this can be secured by calling an ambulance (dial 999) or taking a child to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department. In the case of a child, it would be appropriate for a responsible person or designated adult to accompany the child to hospital.
- If a child, is in immediate danger the police should be contacted (dial 999) as they alone have the power to remove a child immediately if protection is necessary, via a Police Protection Order.

Making a referral

All concerns should be brought to the Designated Safeguarding Lead's attention immediately. It is important that all concerns, even those which appear minor, are reported promptly as they may form part of a bigger picture. Staff must not keep to themselves any information about abuse which a child gives them; they are required by law to pass this information on.



If the concerns meet the Local Authority thresholds, the Designated Person may make a referral. A referral involves giving Children's Services or the Police, information about concerns relating to a child in order that enquiries can be undertaken by the appropriate agency followed by any necessary action.

In certain cases the level of concern will lead straight to a referral without external consultation being necessary.

Parents/carers should be informed if a referral is being made **except** in circumstances where it is considered that informing parents/carers would place a child, yourself or others at immediate risk.

However, inability to inform parents for any reason should not prevent a referral being made. It would then become a joint decision with Children's Services about how and when the parents or carers should be approached and by whom.

If the concern is about abuse or risk of abuse from someone not known to the child or child's family, (stranger abuse) the Designated Person (or someone she has delegated to) will make a telephone referral directly to the police and advise the parents or carers.

If the concern is about abuse or risk of abuse from a family member or someone known to the child, the Designated Person (or someone he has delegated to) will make a telephone referral to the Contact and Referral Team at the Town Hall, (0191 4245010) or the Adult Services Duty Team. Alternatively, calls can be made to the Integrated Safeguarding Interventions Team (ISIT) on 0191 4246335. The ISIT team work alongside children's services, police, probation, education, health, domestic violence services and other partners to and is able to offer advice and guidance to professionals.

If the concern is about potential radicalisation, the Designated Person (or someone she has delegated to) may contact the Local Authority Prevent Lead (Graeme Littlewood), contact the local police via 101 (the non-emergency number) to gain support or advice and may make a referral to the Channel Programme. (Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.), *The Prevent Duty, June 2015*. **In emergency situations, where there are concerns that a child's life is in immediate danger 999 will be called.**

The Local Authority provides further details and advice online in their policy and procedures web pages at <http://southtynesidescb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

Confidential Records of Concern

It is important for all staff to follow the statement of confidentiality outlined below:



We treat all children, carers, parents and families with respect. Information that is given to us will be treated confidentially and shared only with those persons who have an agreed reason to have the information. Information will only be passed to other people with the agreed consent of the person giving the information, except if there are concerns about the welfare of a child. In these circumstances a discussion will be held with the Designated Person and if it is considered appropriate the information will be shared with professionals in the local authority/police/health.

Staff must ensure that any records in respect of the children, their parents and/or carers are kept confidential in a secure place. Information should only be shared on a need to know basis. Where the sharing of information is vital to protect a child, the issue of confidentiality is secondary to their need for protection.

Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers / Whistle Blowing - further detail can be found in Section 4 of KCSIE 2020

Allegations are usually addressed in two areas:

- Allegations that a child is being harmed by a member of staff, is known as ‘Allegations Management’
- General allegations of wrongdoing is known as ‘Whistle-Blowing’

All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to ensure they do not abuse their positions of trust within our organisation. Any concerns raised by a member of staff/volunteer or a member of the public regarding inappropriate behaviour by any member of this organisation will be managed via the following procedure and all allegations will be acted on.

Allegations Management

If anyone raises a concern about another worker, professional or volunteer where they have:

- Behaved inappropriately in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children, in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with these groups in their work, volunteering capacity or private life

This will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr Michael Arthur) who must inform the South Tyneside Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Allegations Management – **JEAN HUGHES (TEL: 4247340)**. The LADO will advise on how to proceed, whether the matter can be dealt with within our organisation’s own arrangements or whether a multi-agency strategy meeting is required.

Where the LADO decides that the issue can be dealt with internally, the reasoning and advice will be recorded and sent to the Head, Children’s Services Referral and Assessment Team and the Police Child Protection Unit. In this instance it will be necessary to comply with the timescales in the Local Authority guidance and inform the LADO of the outcome of the



investigation.

Where the LADO decides the case needs to proceed to an 'Allegation Management Meeting' (AMM) she will make a referral to the Children's Services Contact and Referral Team and convene the meeting/s in accordance with their guidance.

Complaints made directly to the police will be reported to the LADO as soon as possible and again he will decide whether to hold a strategy meeting. The Police may interview the complainant if they feel this is appropriate.

Complaints against Supply Teachers.

Whilst Toner Avenue is not the employer of supply teachers, we have a duty to ensure that allegations are dealt with properly. In no circumstances would an allegation lead to the cessation of work with that supply teacher due to safeguarding concerns without finding out the facts and liaising with the LADO to determine a suitable outcome. In the case of an allegation being made against a supply teacher, the Governing Body and Head Teacher would discuss with the agency whether it is appropriate to suspend the supply teacher or redeploy them to another part of the school whilst they carry out their investigations.

Whistle-Blowing

Members of staff may be the first to notice if anything is seriously wrong within the organisation. However, they might not say anything because they think this would be disloyal, or they might be worried that their suspicions are not justified. They may also be worried that they or someone else may be victimised.

If anyone wants to raise any concern, they can do so with confidence and without having to worry about being victimised, discriminated against or disadvantaged in any way as a result. Members of the public should also be encouraged to voice any concerns they raise officially.

What types of action does this include?

This policy is intended to deal with serious or sensitive concerns about wrongdoings such as the following:

- Fraud or corruption
- Member groups, children or students, particularly children in our care, being mistreated
- Unauthorised use of money
- An unlawful act
- Any danger to health and safety
- A person abusing their position for any unauthorised use or for personal gain
- A person deliberately not keeping to a policy, a code of practice or any law or regulation
- A person failing to meet appropriate standards
- A person being discriminated against because of their race, colour, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, age sex, sexuality, class or home life



The concern may be about members of staff, or other people who work directly for or with the organisation, as part of a collaborative/partnership agreement.

What is not covered?

Whistle-Blowing policies cannot be used to deal with serious or sensitive matters that are covered by other procedures.

Such Procedures include the following –

- Staff complaints about their employment. These complaints should be dealt with through the Grievance Procedure.
- Parent's complaints about services. These complaints should be dealt with through the Complaints Policy.

It is important to adhere to the following if any concerns are disclosed to individuals. Staff who have concerns should speak to the Head or Deputy.

- Whistle-blowers should be made to feel confident in using the policy to raise issues as where an allegation is true they have nothing to fear. Let them know that if necessary you will take appropriate action under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 to protect them from any harassment, victimisation or bullying.
- You will keep their concerns confidential if this is what they want, unless you are unable to by law. Explain this at the time they raise a concern so they can decide whether or not to proceed.

Anonymous Allegations

- Let people know that because you will protect them (as explained above); you encourage them to give their name when they make an allegation. Concerns raised anonymously tend to be far less effective and if, for example, you do not have enough information, you may not be able to investigate the matter at all.
- If they feel that they still do not want to give their name, the Head will decide whether or not to consider the matter. The decision will depend on:
 - The seriousness of the matter;
 - Whether the concern is believable;
 - Whether an investigation can be carried out based on the information provided.

Any member of staff or volunteer raising a concern should first do so with their manager or the nominated person, this will depend on the seriousness and sensitivity of the matter, and who is suspected of the wrongdoing.

Concerns are better put in writing giving as much information as possible – including any



relevant names, dates, places and so on. The earlier the issue is raised, the easier it will probably be to take effective action.

A person raising a concern will not have to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that the allegation is true, but they will have to show that there are good reasons for their concern.

Staff are also aware that they can contact the NSPCC's dedicated helpline on 0800 028 0285 or via help@nspcc.org.uk if they have significant concerns about the way child protection is handled within school.

Code of Behaviour

All staff and volunteers are expected to behave in a manner which reflects the child, young person and vulnerable adult-centred principles of our organisation. This good practice will be reinforced during staff development, supervision and training sessions.

Working with Children

It is essential that care is taken to minimise the possibility for abuse and misunderstanding and misinterpretation. False allegations are rare but general good practice will help prevent them. The following examples will help to create a positive culture and climate for children who visit our premises.

- Never work alone with children out of public view.
- Leaders should not ask staff/volunteers to work with these groups in situations where staff/volunteers will be completely unobserved
- Maintain a safe and appropriate emotional and physical distance from children. It is not appropriate for staff or volunteers to have an intimate relationship with children who visit our premises
- Do not engage in rough or sexually provocative games
- Do not make sexual comments
- Do not invite or allow children into your home (childminders are an exception and will be registered and inspected according to legal requirements)
- Do not give children lifts in your car except in emergencies (unless this is part of your job)
- Do not interact with pupils (or their parents) on social media. Further information on appropriate use of Social Media for staff can be found in the Acceptable Use Policy
- Never let allegations, made by anyone, go unacknowledged, unresolved or not acted upon

Staff/volunteers should be aware of the potential for misunderstanding when touching children.

Consoling a child who is upset, administering first aid or supporting a participant in an activity is acceptable and necessary behaviour.

The use of 'reasonable force'

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in schools and colleges to use



reasonable force to safeguard children and young people. The term ‘reasonable force’ covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. ‘Reasonable’ in these circumstances means using ‘no more force than is needed’. The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil’s path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom. The decision on whether or not to use reasonable force to control or restrain a child is down to the professional judgement of the staff concerned and should always depend on the individual circumstances. Where possible, staff should plan positive and proactive behaviour support through the drawing up of positive handling plans, which will be shared with parents. Further advice can be sought from the SENCO (Mrs C Hutchinson) or the Deputy SENCO (Mrs H Storey)

Safe Recruitment and Selection

Our organisation will take all possible steps to prevent unsuitable people working with children.

When interviewing potential staff we will ensure:

- There is an open recruitment process
- There is a rigorous interview
- Applicants identity and claims to any academic or vocational qualifications will be verified
- References will be taken up by direct contact with referees
- Evidence of the date of birth and address of the potential employee will be sought
- Verification of qualifications is carried out
- Where appropriate, an enhanced disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau will be secured
- Where a position requires an enhanced disclosure and barred list check, this will be clear on the application form, job advert and any other information provided about the post.
- that the candidate has the mental and physical fitness to carry out their work responsibility (KCSIE, 2020, states that “ An applicant can be asked relevant questions about disability and health in order to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role”, P 37)
- that we verify the applicant’s right to work in the UK . Where an applicant has lived or worked outside of the UK, additional checks may be made
- For teaching positions, a prohibition order check will be carried out
- All applicants will complete an application form enabling each of them to have the same opportunity to provide information about themselves and assist in identifying any gaps in their employment.

During interviews the interview panel will explore:

- The candidates attitude toward children



- His or her ability to support the organisations agenda for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Any gaps in the candidates employment history
- Any concerns or discrepancies arising from the information provided by the candidate and/or referee

A job offer will only be made subject to the necessary checks being satisfactory.

All staff will have a job description and contract of employment, and be required to work a probationary period.

At least one member of any selection panel will have completed the ‘Safer Recruitment Training’ consistent with South Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board requirements.

Post Appointment

All staff and volunteers (paid or unpaid), regardless of previous experience will take part in an induction programme during their first three months of employment.

The purpose of this will be to:

- Provide training about our policies and procedures
- To provide support to individuals in the role for which they have been engaged
- To provide opportunities for a new member of staff or volunteer to discuss any issues or concerns about their role or responsibilities
- To enable the person’s line manager, supervisor or mentor to recognise any concerns about the person’s ability or suitability at the outset and address them immediately
- To ensure that the individual is aware of policies, procedures and statements in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- To ensure that individuals understand how and with whom they should raise any concerns with regard to any practice issues
- To ensure that individuals are aware of other relevant procedures, e.g. disciplinary, capability and whistle blowing
- To ensure that all staff and volunteers have appropriate levels of training in safeguarding children and other responsibilities in connection with their role
- To advise individuals about supervision and appraisal systems

Complaints

It is reasonable for children, parents and carers to have the right to complain or make comment if they are unhappy with the care or service they receive. Toner Avenue takes the care of children, young people and vulnerable adults seriously and will address any concerns that are raised.

Receiving complaints and comments about our organisation also helps us to understand the



things that we do well and where there are areas that need to be improved.

If anyone would like to complain or comment about any aspect of our organisation it is important to take this seriously and direct them in the first instance to complete a complaints form. If they are reluctant to do this or the situation is regarded as serious the comments should be recorded in writing and brought to the immediate attention of the Head.

IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT, CONSULT.

Appendix 1

Toner Avenue Primary School
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

I confirm that I have received, read and understand the following documents:
Toner Avenue Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020, part 1, part 3, Annex A, Annex C and Annex F



Toner Avenue School
Tradition Achievement Success



Appendix 3

Toner Avenue School
Safeguarding Children

***ONLY TO BE COMPLETED IF CPOMS IS NOT AVAILABLE!**

Child:

Person reporting:

Date and time:

Concerns: (Be specific – what have you seen, heard etc.?)

Actions:

Follow up:

PASS THIS CONCERN FORM (PAPER OR EMAIL) TO MR ARTHUR OR MRS HUTCHINSON IMMEDIATELY



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19). Temporary Safeguarding Arrangements as of 30th March 2020.

This is interim guidance – it will be reviewed on a monthly basis or when further Government updates are provided.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the attached Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. (Please note, contents page is not accurate but information is still in the same order).

All reasonable efforts have been made to share this annex. It has been emailed to all staff, uploaded to the Website and shared with Governors (31st April 2020)

The way the school is currently operating in response to the COVID-19 situation is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same.

- With regards to safeguarding, the best interests of children must always continue to come first.
- If any member of the school community has a safeguarding concern about any child they should continue to act and act immediately.
- Mr Arthur and Mrs Hutchinson are available via email (head@toneravenue.s-tyneside.sch.uk / chutchinson@toneravenue.s-tyneside.sch.uk) and all staff have their personal mobile numbers.
- It is essential that unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the children's workforce and / or gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online. (See temporary E-Safety Arrangements below).

The Integrated Safeguarding team (ISIT) have direct contact details for Mrs C Hutchinson and Mr Arthur and continue to contact school to gain information and to share concerns.

As in school time, staff will be asked to complete update for individual children. Emails will continue to be sent via EGRESS to ISIT team to protect sensitive information. Staff should aim to check their emails daily and if they are unwell, should inform Mr Arthur or Mrs Hutchinson.

PUPILS WITH EHCPs

Mrs Hutchinson (DSL / SENDCO) has contacted the parents of all pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan to ascertain their wishes. At present none of these parents are requesting a school place, however Mrs Hutchinson will maintain at least weekly contact with these parents to ensure they are all well. This could be via email or phone call.

PUPILS WHO HAVE A SOCIAL WORKER / OTHER VULNERABLE PUPILS



Mr Arthur and Mrs Hutchinson have the contact details of each of the social workers involved with our pupils. Contact will be maintained throughout this time of school closure with the families who either have a CP / CIN / Early Help plan or who are known to face challenges. This will be at least weekly via email or telephone as appropriate on a case-by-case basis. All such communication will be recorded on CPOMS.

Staff will still be required to provide information for any Social Work assessments and/or core groups. If the period of time since staff has been significant, staff should report on the situation as it was when they last saw the child and also include any relevant details about their engagement with online learning etc.

Local Authorities have the key day-to-day responsibility for delivery of children's social care. There is an expectation that children with a social worker will attend provision, unless in consultation with the child's social worker and family it is agreed that this is not in the best interests of the child. This decision will be recorded on CPOMS.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

Staff should follow exactly the same procedures and principles as outlined in the Policy below. They must ensure they act immediately to inform the DSL if there are concerns. If a child is in immediate danger they should follow the procedures outlined below and call 999.

Peer on peer abuse and e-safety measures have been amended to reflect the current situation (see below). The key principle of "If In Doubt, CONSULT" should be followed.

Staff should follow the procedures outlined in the policy for whistle blowing or Allegations management if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer.

ATTENDANCE

Schools are not expected to complete their usual day-to-day attendance processes to follow up on non-attendance, however, school has a responsibility to follow up on any child that they are expecting to attend, who does not. A register of expected children will be kept updated. It is important that emergency contact details are checked when children are attending. If a child with a social worker does not attend when expected, school must notify the social worker immediately.

Where children are accessing the provision, the daily online attendance form must be completed.

STAFF TRAINING

All staff have been sent copies of 'KCSIE, part 1' as a refresher.

Existing school workforce may move between schools on a temporary basis, for example to support a 'hub' (see below). In most cases, these staff members will have already received appropriate safeguarding training and all they will require is a copy of the receiving setting's child protection policy, confirmation of local processes and confirmation of DSL arrangements.

HUBS



It may be necessary to become part of a child care 'hub' during the school closure period. In this instance, our pupils will access provision at St Oswald's C of E Primary School (Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Smith, telephone number: 0191 483 2844). As per the guidance, this school, "Should continue to provide a safe environment, keep children safe and ensure staff and volunteers have been appropriately checked and risk assessments carried out as required." Toner Avenue Primary school will do all it reasonably can to support St Oswald's in relation to this.

It will be important to provide the receiving institution with any relevant welfare and child protection information. The receiving institution will be made aware of the reason the child is vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them. As a minimum, the receiving institution should, as appropriate, have access to a vulnerable child's EHCP, Child In Need Plan, Child Protection Plan or, for looked after children, their Personal Educational Plan and know who the child's social worker is. This should ideally happen before the child arrives, and where this is not possible, as soon as reasonably practicable. Any exchanges of information should be at DSL level.

SAFER RECRUITMENT / MOVEMENT OF STAFF

Any new members of staff / volunteers must be subject to the same checks and clearances as they would ordinarily need before being allowed to work with children.

Members of the workforce who already have appropriate DBS checks will not need a new check where they temporarily move to another setting. The receiving institution should risk assess as they would for a volunteer and should seek assurance from the current employer.

It is essential that the school is aware, on any given day, which staff will be in school and that appropriate checks have been carried out. No staff should be in school without the prior approval of either the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher.

The Single Central Record must continue to be kept up to date – this will be logged by Mrs Hutchinson and shared electronically with the Safeguarding Link Governor on a monthly basis.

MENTAL HEALTH

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances can affect the mental health of pupils and their parents. Teachers should be aware of this whether they are working directly with children or interacting with them electronically. Further guidance about how mental health issues can bring about changes in a young person's behaviour or emotional state which can be displayed in a range of ways, and can be an indication of an underlying problem can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

ONLINE SAFETY.

This should be read in conjunction with the E-Safety and Acceptable Use policy which all staff have signed to say they have received.



Within school, all websites and key strokes continue to be filtered at source by the Local Authority and E-Safe. Weekly reports are still sent to Mrs Hutchinson and alerts about inappropriate content will be shared with Mr Arthur and Mrs Hutchinson via email.

Children who are away from school still need to be kept safe. It is important that all staff who interact with children, including online, continue to look out for signs a child may be at risk. Any such concerns should be dealt with as detailed above.

At present, we are waiting for guidance in providing education remotely. This will be circulated to all staff when published.

Online teaching should adhere to the same principles as set out in the behaviour policy. The following key points should be adhered to:

- Any contact between staff and families should be polite and courteous.
- If essential, personal mobiles will be used to contact parents, however the caller ID must be blocked.
- Due to the current situation, staff's work emails are being used to communicate with parents. Only Toner Avenue email addresses must be used. Staff must not communicate with parents or children using their own personal email accounts.
- The school has a Facebook and Twitter page which are proving useful to communicate with pupils. Again, all communication must be through the Toner Avenue Social Media channels and no personal accounts should be used to communicate with parents or children.

Staff who are using See Saw / Google Classroom should make it clear to pupils how they should report concerns whilst online. This can be done via signposting appropriate practical support from the likes of:

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse

When communicating with parents, opportunities should be taken to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.

If parents choose to supplement the online offer with support from online companies or individual tutors, school staff should emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation / individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online



- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

The department encourages schools and colleges to share this support with parents and carers.

END OF TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT
INFORMATION