

Holy Trinity NW3 CE Primary School



Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

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Key contacts

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1 Purpose of policy

This policy sets out how the school/college will meet its statutory duty under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and help them to achieve good outcomes. The school will achieve this by providing a safe learning environment and ensuring school staff have the skills and knowledge to take action where children need extra support from early help services or require a social work service because they are in need or need to be protected from harm.

2 Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Camden Supporting People Directorate

The Directorate includes Children's Safeguarding and Social Work (CSSW), Early Intervention and Prevention and Education divisions and these services will support the school to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by:

- co-ordinating the delivery of integrated children's services within the borough, including an early help service
- providing statutory social work services under the Children Act 1989
- providing the school/college with advice, support and guidance, model policies and procedures, training and dedicated lead officers with responsibility for child protection, safeguarding and e-safety
- dealing with allegations against members of staff and volunteers through the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- taking responsibility for those children who are missing from or not in education, including children who are known to be home educated.

2.2 Governing body

The governing body will ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to safeguarding and protecting pupils and that the following are in place:

- The school has the following policies in place and that these are regularly monitored, reviewed and updated where necessary;
 - safeguarding policies and procedures covering early help and child protection that are consistent with Camden Safeguarding Children Board procedures and Camden's internal policies
 - a staff code of conduct policy including policies covering staff/pupil relationships and communications and staff use of social media.

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- a procedure for responding to incidents where children go missing from education, particularly where there are repeated incidents that suggest potential safeguarding risks may be present.
- The school is able to work jointly with other agencies in order to ensure pupils can access help and support from early help services and statutory social work services and that children's plans are implemented and monitored.
- There is a nominated governor with responsibility for liaising with Camden CSF on safeguarding and child protection matters and who links with the LADO in the event of an allegation against the head teacher.
- A senior member of staff is appointed the designated safeguarding lead with responsibility for carrying out the statutory duties as set out in this policy, the individual is given sufficient time and resources to carry out their responsibilities and that another member of staff is appointed to deputise in their absence.
- There is a designated teacher nominated to promote the educational achievement of looked after children and previously looked after children and that this person has received appropriate training for the role.
- Staff receive a thorough induction on joining and are given copies of all relevant safeguarding and child protection policies and the staff code of conduct policy.
- Staff are confident that they can raise issues with leaders where there are concerns about safeguarding practice at the school and there are robust whistleblowing procedures in place.
- Steps are taken to ensure parents and pupils are aware of the school's safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures.
- Governors take steps to ensure children are given opportunities within the curriculum to learn how to keep themselves safe, including on-line safety.
- The school has appropriate written procedures in place to ensure safe recruitment practices and reasonable checks on visitors to the school, to deal with allegations against staff or volunteers and to report matters to the Disclosure and Barring Service as required, and that these policies are consistent with statutory guidance and reviewed on an annual basis.
- At least 1 member of the governing body has undertaken accredited safer recruitment training.
- All staff receive safeguarding and child protection training at least every 2 years and receive regular updates from the designated safeguarding lead to ensure they remain up to date with new legislation.

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- The school has procedures in place to deal with allegations made against other pupils and pupils who go missing from education.
- Children's wishes and feelings are taken into account when deciding on what action to take or services to provide to protect individual children and there is a robust system in place for gaining feedback from pupils.

2.3 Head teacher

The head teacher will ensure that the school meets its statutory safeguarding duty by ensuring the following:

- Staff are inducted thoroughly and have read all the school's safeguarding and child protection policies, staff code of conduct, behaviour policies and the CSCB children missing in education policy so that they are fully aware of their role in safeguarding children and are able to fully implement policies.
- All staff are able to identify those children who need extra help and can make appropriate referrals to early help services.
- All staff are vigilant to harm and abuse, are able to identify those children for whom there are child protection concerns and can make appropriate referrals to FSSW.
- Staff are able to work in partnership with other agencies to safeguard children, including providing early help support, contributing to assessments and the implementation of the child's plan, attending network meetings and case conferences, monitoring children's progress and liaising with social workers.
- Safe recruitment practice is followed when recruiting to posts and appropriate action is taken whenever an allegation is made against a member of staff.
- The school offers a safe environment for staff and pupils to learn.
- Safeguarding issues are brought to the attention of the governing body.

2.4 Role of the designated safeguarding lead

The role of the designated safeguarding lead and their deputy is to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within the school and to be available during school hours for staff to discuss safeguarding concerns. If neither the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy are not on school site staff may contact them at any time on their mobile phone (number given to all staff).

The designated safeguarding lead (and their deputy) will:

- liaise with and manage referrals to relevant agencies such as Family Services and Social Work (FSSW), the LADO, the Channel Panel, the Police and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

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- keep the head teacher and the board of governors informed of on-going safeguarding and child protection issues and enquiries
- provide advice and guidance for staff on safeguarding and child protection issues and making referrals
- ensure the school's safeguarding and child protection policies are up to date and consistent with Camden's Safeguarding Children Board policies and that policies are reviewed annually
- ensure all staff, including temporary staff, are aware of and understand the policies and procedures and are able to implement them
- attend regular training, including Prevent Awareness training, and the designated teachers meetings hosted by Camden in order to keep up to date with new policy, emerging issues and local early help safeguarding and child protection procedures and working practices
- provide regular updates received from Camden to all staff members and governors on any changes in safeguarding or child protection legislation (updated information will be provided by Camden at the designated teachers meeting and designated safeguarding leads will be responsible for communicating this information to staff immediately; they may decide to hold workshops or discuss in staff meetings)
- have an awareness of those children who may be more vulnerable to poor educational outcomes due to safeguarding and other issues such as children in need, children with child protection plans, children with mental health issues, young carers and children who have special educational needs
- liaise with the SENCO when considering any safeguarding action for a child with special needs
- raise awareness with staff on how children's vulnerabilities and exposure to neglect, abuse and trauma can negatively influence their educational attainment and behaviour and how staff can work to meet these challenges and improve outcomes
- liaise with the designated teacher for LAC whenever there are safeguarding concerns relating to a looked after child or previously looked after child
- oversee child protection systems within the school/college, including the management of records, standards of recording concerns and referral processes
- provide a link between the school and other agencies, particularly CSSW and the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership

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- ensure staff , including temporary staff, receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training every 2 years
- ensure parents are fully aware of the school policies and procedures and that they are kept informed and involved
- ensure relevant records are passed on appropriately when children transfer to other schools and where appropriate, share relevant information with schools to enable continued support the child on transfer.

2.5 Working with parents and carers

The school recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the welfare and safety of pupils.

The school will:

- make parents aware of the school's statutory role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils, including the duty to refer pupils on where necessary, by making school policies available on the school website or on request
- provide opportunities for parents and carers to discuss any problems with class teachers and other relevant staff
- consult with and involve parents and carers in the development of school policies to ensure their views are taken into account
- ensure a robust complaints system is in place to deal with issues raised by parents and carers
- provide advice and signpost parents and carers to other services and resources where pupils need extra support.
- Make use of additional guidance available from the DfE on dealing with issues around parental responsibility: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility>

2.6 Multi-agency working

The school will work in partnership with relevant agencies in order to meet its obligations under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and *Working together to safeguard children* 2018.

As a relevant agency under the new Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) safeguarding arrangements, the school recognises its vital role in safeguarding school-age children and its statutory duty to co-operate with the CSCP to ensure joint working with partner agencies in order to improve outcomes for children in Camden.

Governors, school managers and the senior leadership team will ensure these safeguarding arrangements are followed and that the school is able to raise any safeguarding issues and emerging trends with the CSCP via the CSCP Head teacher members and/or the Camden Learning representative.

Full details of the arrangements can be found at: https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Camden-Safeguarding-Children-Partnership-Arrangements_Final_June_-2019.pdf

2.7 Contacting the police

In the event that a criminal offence takes place on the school premises or police assistance is needed to deal with incidents, the school will follow the guidance set out in the NSPCC guidance *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>

2.8 Operation Encompass

The school will ensure that the school receives all police notifications of children who have been involved in domestic abuse incidents via Operation Encompass.

The designated safeguarding lead will inform relevant staff of any notification and agree what support (if any) the pupil should receive from the school.

Operation Encompass is a national initiative that helps to safeguard children and young people who may have been exposed to domestic abuse. In practice, this means that if the police are called to a domestic abuse incident and a child has been present when this happened, then the police will notify the child's school designated safeguarding lead. This will be done as early as possible in the morning and allow the school to silently support the child. This allows for rapid provision of support within the school environment and means that children are better safeguarded against the effects of domestic abuse.

Schools should share details of the notification with as few staff members as possible in order to keep the information confidential, and schools will need to decide on the most appropriate staff member to be informed; e.g. the class teacher for primary pupils.

There is no need for schools/colleges to make a referral to CSSW following a notification as the police will have already referred the case to the MASH.

3 Safeguarding children

The school will carry out its duty to safeguard pupils which is:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- undertaking that role so as to enable children to have optimum life chances so they can enter adulthood successfully.

The school will refer to Camden's thresholds and eligibility criteria (available at the link below) to help make decisions on the child's level of need and the appropriate service to refer on for services. Staff will consult with the designated safeguarding lead for advice and to discuss the case prior to making any referral for services.

[Safeguarding children - Camden Council](#)

All referrals for a children's social care service will be made by way of an e-CAF referral to Camden's Child and Family Contact team. The team is Camden's "front door" for children's social care referrals and accepts referrals for all cases.

Parental consent for referral will be sought but a referral will be made regardless of consent being given in cases where there are safeguarding concerns about the child and making a referral is a proportionate response to those concerns.

Staff will also share information and work in an integrated way to ensure a co-ordinated response from agencies to support families and meet the child's needs.

3.1 Early help cases

Staff will identify children who need extra help at an early stage and provide help and support in order to prevent concerns from escalating. In particular, staff will be aware of the needs of the following groups of children whose circumstances may mean they will require early help:

- children with disabilities and additional needs, including those with special educational needs
- young carers
- children showing early signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gangs and organised crime;
- children who frequently go missing from home, school or care;
- children who are misusing drugs or alcohol;

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- children at risk of exploitation through modern slavery and trafficking;
 - children whose home circumstances are negatively affected by adult substance misuse or mental ill health or domestic abuse;
 - children who have returned home from care;
 - children who show early signs of abuse or neglect;
 - children at risk of radicalisation;
 - privately fostered children.
- Where the child's extra needs require services, consideration will be given to what early help support can be offered a child by the school.
 - If the child requires an early help service from another agency, the school will make a referral to the Early Help service (via the Child and Family Contact team) for appropriate help and support. Staff will consult with parents prior to making any referral to discuss the matter and gain consent to refer the child.
 - Where the child is receiving an Early Help service, the school will work as part of the Team around the Child and take up the role of lead professional where this is appropriate.
 - Early help provision should be monitored and reviewed to ensure outcomes for the child are improving. If the school believes that this is not the case, consideration should be given making a referral for a statutory social work service.

3.2 Referral for a statutory social work service

Where there are concerns about a child's welfare, staff will act immediately by seeking the advice of the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy are most likely to have the most complete safeguarding overview. Following consultation the designated safeguarding lead should decide on whether to make a referral to CSSW via the Contact Service.

Where the referral raises concerns that the child is at risk of significant harm, the case will be passed on to Camden's MASH team to gather relevant information from other agencies.

The Contact Service will inform the school within 1 working day of the outcome of any referral and what action CSSW will be taking. This may include any of the following:

- Carrying out a child and family assessment to identify the child's needs and establish if the child is a **child in need** under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. These are children (including disabled children) who are unlikely to meet a reasonable standard of health and development unless provided with services.

- Convening a **strategy meeting under child protection** procedures as set out in section 4 for any child where there are concerns about significant harm and/or taking any immediate action in order to protect the child.
- Providing services for the child and their family in the meantime whilst work is on-going (including details of services).

4 Child protection procedures

4.1 Role of school

The school will work to the following policy documents in order to support the protection of pupils who are at risk of significant harm.

- Working together to safeguard children (*DfE 2018*)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (*DfE2015*)
[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - Publications - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused)
- The London Safeguarding Children Board child protection procedures
[London Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures](https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/what-we-protect/child-protection-procedures)
- Keeping children safe in education (*DFE 2020*)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/912592/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_Sep_2020.pdf

In line with these policies and procedures, the school will:

- identify those pupils where there are child protection concerns and making a referral to CSSW
- attend child protection case conferences in order to effectively share information about risk and harm
- contribute to the development and monitoring of child protection plans as a member of the core group
- carry out the school's role in implementing the child protection plan and continually monitoring the child's wellbeing, and liaising with the allocated social worker as required.

4.2 Recognition

- Staff have a responsibility to identify those children who are suffering from abuse or neglect and to ensure that any concerns about the welfare of a pupil are reported to the designated safeguarding lead.

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- Staff should refer to appendix 1 for a full definition of significant harm and the specific indicators that may suggest a pupil may be at risk of suffering significant harm.
- Any concerns held by staff should be discussed in the first instance with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy and advice sought on what action should be taken. Where required, advice on thresholds and indicators of harm can be obtained from the MASH social worker on a no-names basis.
- Concerns may be monitored over time and recorded on CPOMS.

4.3 Dealing with disclosures

If a pupil discloses to a member of staff that they are being abused, the member of staff should;

- listen to what is said without displaying shock or disbelief and accept what the child is saying;
- allow the child to talk freely;
- reassure the child but not make promises that it may not be possible to keep, or promise confidentiality, as a referral may have to be made to CSSW;
- reassure the child that what has happened is not their fault and that they were right to tell someone;
- not ask direct questions but allow the child to tell their story;
- not criticise the alleged perpetrator;
- explain what will happen next and who has to be told;
- make a formal record on the 'E-safeguarding book" (and CPOMS) and pass this on to the designated safeguarding lead.

All members of staff should follow the Holy Trinity 'Flow chart for raising safeguarding concerns about a child' at Appendix 3 and the 'Guide to Hearing a Disclosure' at Appendix 4.

4.4 Referral

- Where possible, a decision on whether or not to refer a pupil to CSSW should be made by the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy following a discussion with the member of staff who has raised concerns. However this should not delay any referral and any member of staff may make a referral if this is necessary but staff should discuss the matter with a member of the senior management team and take advice from the Child and Family Contact team social worker. The designated safeguarding lead should be informed as soon as possible.
- Referrals should be in writing using an e-CAF referral completed either by the teacher raising concerns or by the designated safeguarding lead. Urgent child protection referrals will be accepted by telephone but must be confirmed in writing via the e-CAF referral within 48 hours.
- Where there is any doubt about whether the concerns raised meet the thresholds for a child protection referral, the designated safeguarding lead may discuss the case on a "no

names" basis with Camden's Child Protection Co-ordinator or the Child and Family Contact team social worker to obtain advice on how to proceed.

- Parental consent should be sought prior to the referral being made but a referral can be made if parents refuse consent where there are safeguarding concerns about the child and referral is a proportionate response to these concerns. Consent should not be sought if this would place the child at risk of further harm, interfere with a criminal investigation or cause undue delay.
- If the child already has an allocated CSSW social worker, the referral should be made directly to them. If the child is not already known to CSSW, referrals should be made to the Child and Family Contact team. If the child lives outside Camden, a referral should be made to their home local authority.
- All referrals will be acknowledged by the Child and Family Contact team manager within 24 hours and the referrer informed of what action will be taken.
- If the school does not think the child's situation is improving within a reasonable timescale following referral, this should be taken up with CSSW/Early help services via the designated safeguarding lead.

*It must be noted that each and every situation is different and will therefore be dealt with on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the specific circumstances surrounding each individual incident. **Ultimately the school will always act on the advice of Camden's Social Services / Child Protection team.***

4.5 Attendance at case conferences and core groups

- The designated safeguarding lead will liaise with CSSW to ensure that all relevant information held by the school is provided to CSSW during the course of any child protection investigation.
- The designated safeguarding lead will ensure that the school is represented at child protection case conferences and core group meetings:
 - where possible, a member of staff who knows the child best, such as a class teacher or head of year will be nominated to attend
 - failing that, the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy will attend
 - if no-one from the school can attend, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure that a report is made available to the conference or meeting.

4.6 Monitoring

Where a pupil is the subject of a child protection plan and the school has been asked to monitor their attendance and welfare as part of this plan;

- monitoring will be carried out by the relevant staff member in conjunction with the designated safeguarding lead;

- all information will be recorded in the ESAFEGAURDING BOOK child protection monitoring/incident form shown at appendix 5 prior to each conference and core group meeting;
- the completed monitoring form will be kept on the pupil's separate child protection file (that should be separate from the school record) and copies made available to all conferences and core group meetings;
- the designated safeguarding lead will notify the allocated social worker if the child is removed from the school roll, excluded for any period of time or goes missing.

4.7 Records

- Child protection records relating to pupils are highly confidential and will be kept in a designated welfare file separate to the pupil's education records. These records will be securely held within the school.
- The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that records are accurate, up to date and that recording is of a high standard.
- All records should be on CPOMS and the E-safeguarding area, signed and dated.
- Records should show:
 - what the concerns were;
 - what action was taken to refer on concerns or manage risk within the school;
 - whether any follow-up action was taken;
 - how and why decisions were made.
- Any incidents, disclosures or signs of neglect or abuse should be fully recorded with dates, times and locations. Records should also include a note of what action was taken.
- Where a child who is subject to a protection plan transfers to another school, the designated safeguarding lead is responsible for ensuring that copies of all relevant records are passed to the designated safeguarding lead at the new school.
- Child protection records will only be kept until the pupil leaves the school and should be disposed of as confidential waste.

4.8 Confidentiality and information sharing

- All information obtained by school staff about a pupil will be kept confidential and will only be shared with other professionals and agencies with the family's consent unless there are safeguarding concerns that need to be shared with CSSW and parents refuse consent or seeking consent would place the child at further risk.
- If the child is under 12, consent to share information about them must be obtained from their parents or carers. Young people aged 12 to 15 may give their own consent to

information sharing if they have sufficient understanding of the issues. Young people aged 16 and 17 are able to give their own consent if they are thought to have the capacity to do so under the Mental Capacity Act; otherwise consent should be sought from parents.

- Where a child is at risk of suffering significant harm, schools and colleges have a legal duty to share this information with CSSW and make appropriate referrals. Equally, where a child is subject to a child protection investigation, schools and colleges must share any information about the child requested by CSSW.
- Parental consent to making a child protection referral should be sought but if withheld, the referral must still be made and parents made aware of this. Before taking this step, schools and colleges should consider the proportionality of disclosure against non-disclosure; is the duty of confidentiality overridden by the need to safeguard the child?
- Parental consent to referral can be dispensed with if seeking consent is likely to cause further harm to the child, interfere with a criminal investigation or cause undue delay in taking action to protect the child. However, schools should discuss this with the Child and Family Contact team social worker on a “no names” basis to gain advice on whether this course of action should be taken.
- Only relevant information should be disclosed, and only to those professionals who need to know. Staff should consider the purpose of the disclosure, and remind recipients that the information is confidential and only to be used for the stated purpose.
- In the event that a child makes a disclosure of neglect or abuse, staff cannot guarantee them confidentiality, but must explain why they have to pass the information on, to whom and what will happen as a result. Parents should also be made aware of the school’s duty to share information.
- Staff should discuss any concerns or difficulties around confidentiality or information sharing with the designated safeguarding lead or seek advice from the Child and Family Contact team social worker

5 Early Years settings within schools

5.1 Legal and policy framework

As an early years provider delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the school aims to meet the specific safeguarding and child protection duties set out in the Childcare Act 2006 and related statutory guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

The school will ensure that children taught in nursery and reception classes are able to learn and develop and are kept safe and healthy so that they are ready for school by providing a safe, secure learning environment that safeguards and promotes their welfare, and takes appropriate action where there are child protection concerns.

5.2 Safeguarding and child protection

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All safeguarding and child protection policies listed in sections 3 and 4 of this policy will apply equally to children in early years settings so far as they are relevant to that age group.

In addition, the school has the following child protection policies:

- a policy on the use of mobile phones and cameras within the early years setting are:
 - parents and carers are asked to switch off mobile phones if they are coming into the early years setting and leave the setting if they need to use their mobile
 - parents are generally prohibited from taking any photographs of children in the early years setting, but for special events such as school performances, may do so on the understanding that the images are not posted onto social media sites or otherwise shared
 - staff seek parental permission to take photographs of the children, which must be linked to teaching the curriculum and that they use school equipment only for this purpose
 - staff do not bring personal mobile phones into the early years setting and use them only during breaks in the staff room.
- Notifications will be made to Ofsted in the event of an allegation of serious harm or abuse by any person working in the early years setting.

5.3 Suitable people

The school will follow the safer recruitment policy set out in section 6 of this policy to ensure that staff and volunteers who are recruited to work in the early years setting are carefully selected and vetted to ensure they are suitable to work with children and have the relevant qualifications.

Staff policies set out in section 6 of this policy will apply equally to staff and volunteers in the early years settings, and the school will ensure that they receive proper training and induction so that they are aware of their role and responsibilities, all school policies and the school's expectations regarding conduct and safe teaching practice.

Whenever an allegation is made against a member of staff in the early years setting, the school will follow the Camden policy "*Guidance of the management of an allegation against a member of staff*" as referred to in section 6 of this document.

Where early years staff are taking medication that may affect their ability to care for young children, this will be notified to the head teacher.

5.4 Staff training, skills and supervision

The school will ensure that:

- all staff in early years settings have the relevant qualifications and skills for their role and receive the relevant induction, child protection and safeguarding training in line with this policy
- all policies set out in section 7 of this policy will apply equally to early years staff

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- all early years staff receive supervision that helps them to effectively safeguard children by providing opportunities to discuss issues and concerns and decide on what action to take
- all early years staff are able to communicate effectively in English both orally and in writing
- a member of staff who holds a current paediatric first aid certificate is available on the school premises at all times and accompanies children on school trips
- each child in the early years setting has a designated keyworker who liaises with parents to provide individual support for the child.

5.5 Staff ratios

The school will ensure that:

- staff levels within the early years setting comply with statutory guidance and can meet the needs of the children, provide suitable levels of supervision and keep them safe
- parents are kept informed of staff members and numbers
- children are kept within staff sight and hearing at all times.

For nursery classes:

- there will be at least one member of staff for every 13 children
- one member of staff will be a qualified teacher
- at least one member of staff will hold a full and relevant level 3 qualification.

For reception classes:

- class sizes will be limited to 27 pupils. However, from Yr4 Classes can be up to 30 due to space.
- classes will be led by a qualified teacher supported by suitably qualified support staff.

For before and after school provision, school will decide how many staff will be required for adequate supervision based on the age and needs of the children attending.

5.6 Health

The school will:

- promote the health of children attending the early years provision
- take necessary steps to stop the spread of infection
- administer medicines only in line with the school's policy
- take appropriate action where children are ill

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- ensure any meals provided are nutritious and prepared in a hygienic manner
- notify Ofsted of any serious accident, illness or death of any child whilst attending the early years setting within 14 days.

5.7 Health and safety and suitability of premises

The school will ensure that all indoor and outdoor spaces and facilities used for early years settings are safe and fit for purpose and comply with school policies and standards for site safety and health and safety as set out section 8 of this policy. Additionally, the school will ensure that all potential hazards within the school and during school trips are regularly risk assessed.

The school has specific policies for ensuring that records of parents details, and contact numbers for emergencies are kept up to date and that children are released to the care of their parent or other responsible adult with the parent's consent at the end of the day as well as policies for dealing with uncollected children.

5.8 Managing behaviour

The school will take all reasonable steps to ensure that behaviour management techniques are appropriate to the child's age and that corporal punishment is not used or threatened. However, staff will be permitted to use appropriate physical intervention in line with Camden's *Physical intervention and restraint* policy.

6 Safer recruitment

6.1 General principles

The school recognises safer recruitment practices are an essential part of creating a safe environment for children and will ensure that staff working in the school are suitable to do so and do not pose any kind of risk to children.

The school will follow the *Keeping children safe in education* guidance (DfE 2020).

- The school will carry out extensive checks and enquiries on applicants for all positions, including voluntary and support roles and governors, in accordance with statutory requirements.
- No staff member, volunteer or governor will be allowed to take up posts until all checks and enquiries required for that position have been satisfactorily completed.
- Checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service will be carried out at the level appropriate to the candidate's role in the school (see section 6.4).
- All job advertisements and application forms will clearly state that the role is a safeguarding role and that applicants will be expected to agree to undergo DBS and other checks as part of safe recruitment practices.

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- Staff and governors who normally sit on interview panels will be trained in safeguarding interviewing techniques and no interview should go ahead unless at least one member of the panel has undertaken safe recruitment training. Schools will take up the accredited safe recruitment training offered through the Camden Safeguarding Children Board or any other accredited training provider.
- Although the head teacher will have day-to-day responsibility for the recruitment of staff, the board of governors will ensure that they maintain an overview of recruitment systems in order to scrutinise practice and ensure all statutory checks are carried out.
- School staff with responsibility for carrying out recruitment checks should ensure they have a copy of any relevant documents or take relevant issue numbers from documents as proof that the document has been seen.
- Checks will be taken out on existing staff where concerns arise regarding their suitability to work with children or a person moves into a post that is a regulated activity.
- In schools, the head teacher will be responsible for keeping a single central record of all staff and volunteers who work at the school.
- The single central records should include details of all checks carried out and the outcome of these checks or any certificates obtained.
- Where the school has salaried trainee teachers, the school will ensure that all necessary checks are carried out on the trainees, including DBS checks, and that the outcome of these checks is recorded on the single central record.
- For trainee teachers that are fee-funded, the school will obtain written confirmation from the training provider that the necessary checks have been carried out and that the trainee has been judged to be suitable to work with children.
- Where staff are recruited via third parties such as employment agencies, the head teacher and/or the board of governors will:
 - seek written confirmation from the agency that the agency has carried out all necessary checks on the individual
 - request written confirmation of the outcome of all checks
 - request written confirmation that an enhanced DBS certificate has been received by the agency
 - check the identity of agency staff when they first present for work to ensure they are person against whom the checks were taken out.

6.2 Checks to be taken out

The school will verify the following information for all new staff:

- The applicant's identity must be verified from their passport or other photographic ID and proof of address must be provided.

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- The applicant's right to work in the UK must be evidenced through documentation. Only original documentation should be accepted and its validity checked in the presence of the applicant.
- Where the applicant will be involved in regulated activity, an enhanced DBS check will be taken out, including information from the barred list. If the applicant will begin work before an enhanced DBS check can be completed, a barred list check will be obtained.
- In the case of teaching staff, checks will be made on the applicant's academic and vocational qualifications and further checks made on TRA, Teacher Services system to ensure they are not prohibited from teaching under a teacher prohibition order.
- Where the applicant has been living abroad, similar enquiries will be made in the country of origin relating to the applicant's qualifications and suitability to teach via the NCTL Teacher Services system.

School is aware of the following central government guidance:

[Criminal records checks for overseas applicants - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

[Employing overseas-trained teachers from outside the EEA - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

- If a candidate applying for a teaching post is not currently teaching, the school will contact their former school to enquire about their reasons for leaving.
- Enquiries will be made regarding the applicant's state of physical and mental health to the extent that it may affect their capacity to carry out their role.
- The school will keep copies of the following documents on staff personnel files:
 - documents used as proof of identity such as passports or driving licences;
 - a summary of the DBS certificate (but all other documents relating to the DBS check must be destroyed);
 - documents that prove the staff member's right to work in the UK (failure to do so can result in a fine for employing illegal workers).

6.3 References

- Applicants will be asked to provide a full employment history and details of at least 2 referees, including previous and recent employers, and who should be a senior member of staff with the authority to provide references. References from colleagues will not be acceptable.
- All references will be taken up prior to interview and will be requested directly from the referee, including references for internal candidates. Referees will be contacted to resolve any issues that emerge from the references provided.
- References will be taken up from current employers only; if the applicant is not currently employed, verification of will be sought from their previous school as to the dates the applicant was employed and the reasons for leaving the post.

- Any information provided by applicants as part of an application process will be verified with independent sources and any reference received electronically will be checked to verify the originating source.

6.4 DBS checks

In order to ensure that people who work in the school are suitable to do so and are not barred from working with children, the school will apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for police checks and other barred list information as part of the recruitment process.

Full DBS checks, which include barred list checks, will only be taken out on individuals who are involved in regulated activity which is defined as close, unsupervised contact on a regular basis involving activities such as:

- teaching
- training
- supervising
- care
- guidance and advice
- driving a vehicle
- personal or intimate care.

The activity must be carried out regularly as part of the staff member's day to day responsibilities and the checks will be reasonable in order to safeguard children.

Full DBS checks with barred list checks will also be carried out on permanent staff members working at the school or unpaid volunteers who regularly work unsupervised at the school and whose work means they have an opportunity for contact with children.

Other staff, contractors and supervised volunteers who have opportunities for regular contact with children but do not carry out a regulated activity will be subject to an enhanced DBS check but **not** barred list checks.

Decisions on whether a person is carrying out a regulated activity or whether their role provides opportunities for regular contact with children requiring a DBS check will be made by whoever is responsible for recruitment in the school, for example the head teacher or governor, and the following will be taken into consideration when deciding on this.

- the age of the children;
- their level of vulnerability;
- the numbers of children in the group;
- the nature of the role;
- opportunities for contact with the children.

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The school has robust procedures for day to day staff management and supervision and clear procedures for reporting and acting on concerns. Staff carrying out roles involving regulated activity will be suitably supervised on a regular basis by senior staff carrying out a similar role.

The school will ensure that all DBS checks carried out on staff are renewed after 3 years of the original DBS disclosure.

6.5 Volunteers

The head teacher will ensure that the following are carried out in relation to unpaid volunteers such as parents who accompany pupils on school outings or provide help in the classroom:

- All volunteers will be required to undergo a recruitment process, such as reference checks and interviews that is appropriate and proportional to the duties assigned to them.
- Volunteers who are carrying out a regulated activity, for example being left unsupervised with children or providing personal care to children subject to an enhanced DBS check, including barred list information.
- New volunteers who are not carrying out regulated activity but who have an opportunity for regular contact with children will be subject to an enhanced DBS check but this may not include a barred list check.
- For other volunteers who are not carrying out regulated activity and do not have regular contact with children, the head teacher/principal will carry out a risk assessment to decide whether an enhanced DBS check should be carried out depending on:
 - the nature of the role
 - what information is already known about the volunteer
 - what references from work or volunteering activity the volunteer has provided regarding suitability
 - whether the role is eligible for an enhanced DBS check.
- The school will ensure that all volunteers are competent to carry out the duties assigned to them and only assigned duties that are suitable to their qualification and experience.
- Volunteers carrying out regulated activity but for whom a DSB check has not been carried out will be suitably supervised by teaching staff at all times at a level that ensures the safety of pupils.
- All volunteers will be fully inducted in relation to all school policies and procedures.

6.6 Governors and independent school management

The school will take out an enhanced DBS check on governors but a barred list check will only be taken out if the individual governor will be carrying out a regulated activity within the school.

The school will also take out a check with the Teaching Regulation Agency Teacher Services system to establish whether any individual seeking to become the governor of a maintained school has been disqualified and therefore unable to do so.

6.7 Alternative education provision

Whenever the school places a pupil with an alternative education provider, the school will obtain written confirmation of the provider's safeguarding and child protection policies and ensure that appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment have been carried out.

7 Staff practice and conduct

7.1 Induction and training

- The head teacher will ensure that all staff are fully inducted, are made aware of the school's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures and that staff are fully aware of their role in implementing these:
 - Safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures
 - Behaviour policy
 - Staff code of conduct
 - Children missing from education policy.
- Staff will be asked to confirm in writing that they have received and read all relevant staff policies, including "*What to do if you are worried a child is being abused*" guidance.
- The designated safeguarding lead will ensure that all staff are fully inducted with regard to the school child protection procedures and that they receive safeguarding and child protection training on a two-yearly basis.
- The head teacher will keep a central record of all statutory and other training undertaken by staff members, governors and volunteers.
- School staff and governors will receive multi-agency safeguarding training provided by Camden Safeguarding Children Board at the relevant level.
- As well as basic safeguarding training, the designated safeguarding lead and their deputy will receive specific training on their role and other relevant multi-agency training courses provided by Camden SCB.
- Schools staff will also receive training on the use of the Common Assessment Framework assessment and referral process as part of their safeguarding training.
- School staff will receive regular and timely updates on child protection and safeguarding issues via the designated safeguarding lead in order to ensure they remain up to date with new legislation.

7.2 Conduct and safe teaching practice

- The school expects staff and volunteers to set a good example to pupils through their own conduct and behaviour and aims to protect them from the risk of allegations being made against them by ensuring they maintain high standards of professionalism and appropriate boundaries.
- The head teacher will ensure that there is a written code of conduct in place and that each member of staff, including volunteers, signs a code of conduct agreement on appointment that sets out the school/college expectations with regards to standards of professional behaviour and that all staff receive copies of relevant policies.
- Staff and volunteers should be aware of current guidance on safe teaching practice contained in the DCSF “*Guidance for safer working practice for adults working with children & young people*” (2009).
<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/guidance-for-safer-working-practice-for-adults-who-work-with-children-and-young-people-in-education-settings/>
- Staff will be expected to follow Camden’s model social media policy for schools in terms of their use of social media, particularly in relation to professional standards and relationships with pupils. All staff and volunteers will sign an acceptable use agreement before being given access to the school computer system.
<http://ccfl.camden.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Social-Media-Policy-2014.pdf>

7.3 Providing intimate or personal care to pupils

Staff in primary schools may need to provide intimate or personal care to younger pupils, for example helping a child who has soiled themselves or supervising pupils who are changing for P.E.

Children should be encouraged to carry out self-care tasks for themselves where appropriate, but where adult intervention is needed, the following should be observed;

- Staff should follow our agreed school policy or practice when providing intimate or personal care.
- When taking pupils to the toilet, staff should make colleagues aware of the task to be undertaken and explain to the child what will happen.
- Parents should always be notified if intimate care has been provided.
- When providing intimate care, staff should carefully and sensitively observe the child’s emotional response and report any concerns to the designated teacher.
- When children are changing, levels of supervision should be appropriate to the pupil’s age.
- Staff should avoid any physical contact unless a child needs help.
- Staff should ensure that changing areas are private and that others are not able to enter whilst children are changing.

7.4 Behaviour management, physical intervention and restraint

The school has a behaviour policy in line with government guidance and any use of physical intervention and restraint is linked to the implementation of the school behaviour policy.

It is the school's policy to use physical intervention and restraint only in line with Camden CSF policy "*Physical intervention policy for schools and centres*".

Guidance from the Department of Education provides schools with the powers to intervene in a variety of ways in order to manage behaviour within and outside the school. Details of these may be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>

Physical intervention and restraint on pupils should only be used as a last resort, normally when de-escalation strategies have failed, and when there is a clear risk of serious harm to the pupil or others or serious damage to property.

Decisions on when to use physical intervention is a matter of professional judgement, and any intervention or restraint should be proportionate, reasonable and necessary to the perceived risk and should continue only for as long as the risk remains. Should such an intervention be required the school will record the details in the bound and numbered book, including any injury, and contact the parent/carer on the same day to explain the circumstances involved.

Use of physical intervention and restraint for vulnerable pupils with learning and other disabilities, autism and mental health difficulties should be carefully monitored as these pupils are more susceptible to experience physical intervention and restraint due to their circumstances. Schools, and particularly special schools, should have regard for the Department of Education guidance on reducing use of restraint available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-the-need-for-restraint-and-restrictive-intervention>

7.5 Music tuition

It is recognised that music tutors are vulnerable to allegations being made against them because they often work with children alone and the activity can involve some physical contact with a child.

Music tutors need to be aware of the possibility of their conduct and behaviour, including physical contact, being misinterpreted by a child or taken out of context by other adults and:

- ensure they behave in an appropriate manner and maintain professional boundaries at all times
- only use physical contact as necessary within the context of the activity, for example as a means of demonstrating technique, and only for as long as needed
- make sure any physical contact cannot be misinterpreted by a child by explaining in advance what contact will be involved and why
- ask the child's permission first and respect their wishes

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- report any incidents or issues that arise to the appropriate member of staff and make sure a record is taken
- never travel alone with children in a car
- seek permission from parents before contacting children by mobile phone, for instance to rearrange a lesson or rehearsal, and use home telephone contacts wherever practicable.

The school should carry out a risk assessment around providing music tuition. This should include:

- providing rooms/spaces that are adequately safe and open locations where the teacher can be easily observed by others, for example a door with glass in it
- passing on any relevant information about children that may have a bearing on how they could react to physical contact so the tutor can adapt their practice accordingly
- let parents know when they arrange tuition what level of physical contact may take place as part of the activity
- record any reported incidents or issues and deal with these within the framework of the school's own policies
- make sure music tutors are aware of the school's safeguarding and staff conduct policies prior to starting.

7.6 Allegations against staff

In the event that an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer, including a member of staff who is not directly employed by the school such as a supply teacher, the school will follow Camden's "*Guidance for the management of an allegation against a member of staff*". <https://cscp.org.uk/professionals/schools-and-nurseries-safeguarding-policies/>

The board of governors should appoint the head teacher as the school representative for the purposes of the allegations procedures and who will link with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for all allegations raised. A further staff member will be identified as their deputy to act in their absence or if allegations are made against the responsible staff member.

All allegations in relation to staff members will be referred to the head teacher; allegations against the head teacher will be referred to the chair of governors.

7.7 Whistleblowing

The school fosters a culture of openness in line with the "Freedom to speak up" review and will put in place strategies and procedures to ensure that staff feel enabled to raise concerns relating to the safeguarding of children or poor practice within the school that may cause a risk to children.

The school recognises that there may be circumstances where staff and pupils feel unable to raise concerns or incidents of malpractice within the school environment as there is reasonable doubt that these would be dealt with adequately.

All staff and volunteers have a legal duty to raise concerns where they feel individuals or school are failing to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Where it is not possible to raise concerns within the school, staff and volunteers may report concerns to the following;

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- Camden's lead officers for child protection or safeguarding where there are issues regarding the welfare of a pupil;
- The following numbers can be used where there are issues regarding the school/college's overall procedures around safeguarding
 - Camden Council's confidential and independent help-line for protected disclosure on **0800 734199**
 - the Ofsted whistle-blowing line on **0300 123 3155**
 - the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline on **0800 028 0285**.
- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that these numbers are advertised on the school premises and made available to staff and pupils.

8 Health and safety and risk assessments

8.1 Responsibility for health and safety

The governing body and head teacher will ensure that there is a robust health and safety policy in place in order to meet the statutory responsibility for the safety of pupils and staff within the school environment.

Any health and safety policy adapted by the school will be based on the government guidance (link below) and will seek to balance risk avoidance against providing pupils with opportunities to take part in activities that help them learn to manage risk themselves.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/279429/DfE_Health_and_Safety_Advice_06_02_14.pdf

Day-to-day responsibility for health and safety issues in the school will be delegated to a member of staff who is competent to carry out these duties and who has received the appropriate training. This is: Mr Daryl Haskins, Site Service Manager.

8.2 Risk assessments

The school will seek to identify and manage risk through the use of risk assessments. These will be carried out:

- on an annual basis for the school environment as a whole
- for all school trips
- for pupils travelling between locations during the school day
- for all work-based learning or work experience placements
- when a pupil who has been excluded for risky or violent behaviour is returning to the school
- whenever there are any changes to the school environment or school practices
- following any serious incident.

8.3 Working with aggressive and violent parents

Where schools are working with families who are known to CSSW and there are concerns about the behaviour of parents towards members of school staff, this must be discussed with the head teacher and the designated safeguarding lead and the information shared with CSSW.

If there are high levels of risk involved in contact with parents, CSSW may convene a risk assessment meeting with the network in order to discuss strategies to reduce risk, and it is vital that schools are part of this process.

8.4 Site security and visitors

The board of governors is responsible for the security of the school premises and will take steps to ensure it is a safe environment and securely protected against trespass and/or criminal damage.

The head teacher will decide whether or not contractors should be subject to DBS checks before being allowed access to the building, depending on the level of access they are likely to have to pupils.

Where the visitor is employed by an organisation where DBS checks are normally required, for example NHS staff, the head teacher will request written confirmation that relevant checks have been carried out for that individual.

All visitors and contractors will be:

- informed to report to reception on arrival;
- expected to provide proof of identity
- expected to wear a name-badge or carry some form of identification at all times when on the school premises;
- suitably supervised by school staff at all times;
- made aware of school health and safety procedures.

The head teacher and the board of governors will ensure that any contract entered into with contractors' sets out clearly the expectations for worker's behaviour and the responsibility of contractors to monitor and ensure compliance with school policies.

Contracted workers will not be allowed to approach or speak to pupils in any circumstances and must ensure that all equipment and working practices are in line with health and safety standards.

Visiting organisations such as theatre groups who will be performing for or working directly with pupils will be expected to have adequate child protection procedures in place and must agree with class teachers in advance what level of supervision or contact they will have regarding pupils.

8.5 Use of the school premises by other organisations

The school will only allow use of the school premises by other organisations outside of school hours for the purposes of providing supplemental schooling if:

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- the schools articles of trust or other incorporating document allows this;
- the organisation provides an overview of what it intends to teach so that the board of governors is able to make a judgement on whether this is in line with the promotion of British values
- the organisation can provide evidence that they have followed safe recruitment practices and that their staff have the requisite DBS checks
- the following reasonable and due diligence checks are taken out on the organisation by the school;
 - an internet search on the organisation
 - checks with Camden's Community Groups and Schools Consultant (020 7974 7319)
 - checks with Prevent Education officer (020 7974 1008)
 - checks with Camden's Channel officer (020 7974 6050)
 - checks with Camden Community Safety and the local police (020 7974 2915)

Details of the agreement are recorded on the partnership agreement record.

8.6 Monitoring and review

To enable the school to monitor the safety of the premises and the school environment, as well as the implementation of policies, the head teacher and the board of governors will ensure that;

- all school policies are regularly monitored by the designated safeguarding lead and annually reviewed by the head teacher and governing body;
- the school keeps a central record of all accidents and incidents including what action was taken and by whom;
- staff are aware of their responsibility to record accidents and incidents;
- the head teacher has an overview all accidents/incidents;
- serious accidents and incidents are reported to the board of governors;
- the designated safeguarding lead ensures a high standard of recording of all concerns held about children;
- all accidents and incidents are scrutinised on a regular basis by the board of governors to identify any problems or weaknesses around school safeguarding policies and procedures or any emerging patterns, and agreeing to any course of action.

9 Additional safeguarding policies

9.1 Non-collection of children from school

The school will put in place a policy regarding handing over children to adults who are not their parent or known carer at the end of the school day. Parents will be asked to provide the details of the person who will normally collect the child and will be informed of the need to notify the school in advance if this changes, giving details of the person authorised to collect the child.

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The school will also ensure that the details of at least two people who can be contacted in an emergency in the event that the child is uncollected.

Parents will also be asked to inform schools where children are subject to court orders that limit contact with a named individual or when information about the child should not be divulged because it may pose a risk to the child.

In the event that anyone who is not authorised to do so attempts to collect the child, the school will not allow the child to leave but contact the parent immediately.

If a child is uncollected at the end of the school day, the school will follow the procedure agreed with CSSW:

- The schools will check with the child to see if there are any changes to arrangements for collection and try to make contact with the parent or other family members, and wait with the child until someone comes to collect them.
- Children will not be released into the care of another parent even where they offer to take the child home.
- The school will put CSSW on notice at 4.00 pm if there are difficulties in contacting parents or other family members.
- If no contact can be made with the parent by 4.30pm, the school will contact the CSSW assessment team who will arrange for a social worker to collect the child or make arrangements for the child to be transported to the CSSW office.
- The school will regularly ask parents to confirm and update contact details and to nominate a family member or friend who can collect the child in the event that they are unable to do so.
- Where children are regularly uncollected or collected late, this should be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead and reported to the Pupil Attendance Service. If there are also child protection concerns, a referral should be made to CSSW.

9.2 Children who are missing from education or home educated

Schools need to be aware of those children who are persistently absent or missing from school as this may be an indicator of welfare concerns.

Attendance policies should state clearly who needs to be notified and what action should be taken and any relevant timescales. Parents should be asked to provide contact details for at least 2 or more people who can be contacted in the event that a child does not attend school.

Schools should refer to Camden's "Children missing from education" policy and the CSCB missing children protocol for further details. [Schools and Nurseries Safeguarding Policies | Camden Safeguarding Children Board](#)

Where a parent notifies the school that they are removing the child so they can be educated at home, the following notifications should be made:

- The Pupil Attendance Service must be notified of all decisions
- If the child is already known to CSSW, their allocated social worker should be notified immediately
- If the child is not known to CSSW, but the school has concerns about their welfare, the designated safeguarding lead should make a referral to CSSW.

9.3 Peer on peer abuse

The school will ensure that all staff are aware of peer on peer abuse and know what action to take when a pupil's behaviour is likely to cause harm to other pupils. This may be through:

- bullying and cyberbullying
- physical violence
- sexual violence and sexual harassment
- upskirting
- sexting
- initiation rites (hazing).

Upskirting is defined as 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. It is now a criminal offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Where appropriate, the school will refer the perpetrator and the victim to the Child and Family Contact team under the Peer on peer abuse protocol available at:

<https://cscp.org.uk/resources/peer-on-peer-abuse/>

Where the harm is attributable to sexually abusive behaviour or sexual harassment, the school will follow the CSCB Harmful sexual behaviour; further details can be found below.

9.4 Harmful sexual behaviour, sexual violence and harassment

Policy

The school recognises that sexual violence and sexual harassment between pupils is a serious safeguarding issue and such behaviour will not be tolerated. School behaviour management and anti-bullying policies will reflect the school's approach and staff and pupils will be made aware of the standard of expected behaviour and the likely responses to any incidents of sexual violence and harassment.

The school will follow the statutory guidance *Sexual violence and sexual harassment between pupils* and will work with relevant agencies to safeguard and support victims, take appropriate action against alleged perpetrators and ensure a safe learning environment for all pupils.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719902/Sexual_violence_and_sexual_harassment_between_children_in_schools_and_colleges.pdf

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The school will take all necessary steps to put in place a planned PHSE curriculum to convey the school's policy for preventing harmful sexual behaviour and to promote respectful behaviour between pupils with regards to sexual conduct.

The school will promote an environment where victims feel empowered to raise concerns and report incidents. Any reports of sexual violence or harassment will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated by the school and appropriate referrals made to the police and CSSW.

The school will ensure that staff and governors receive relevant training to help them ensure an effective response to incidents that protects individual victims and safeguards the welfare of all pupils and staff.

The school will ensure staff are able to provide appropriate support to victims and alleged perpetrators that meets their needs and continues to promote their education.

Procedures

The school will ensure there is a robust response to all incidents and will follow the procedures set out in Part 5 of the *Keeping children safe in education* statutory guidance.

Reported incidents will be investigated by the member of staff to whom the young person discloses in partnership with the designated safeguarding lead, who will also carry out a risk assessment to look at any continued risk to the victim or other pupils and staff from the alleged perpetrator within the school/college environment.

Where the allegation involves material posted online, the school will request that the electronic device is handed over as part of the investigation and will use legal powers to search and confiscate property as set out in the statutory guidance *Searching, screening and confiscation advice for schools*.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

The member of staff and designated safeguarding lead will write up a record of the investigation that will set out how the school will respond to the incident.

Decisions on responses will be based on the harmful sexual behaviour risk assessment and thresholds set out in the CSCP *Harmful sexual behaviour protocol*. The designated safeguarding lead may take advice from MASH social workers before making a decision. Possible outcomes include referral to Early Help Services, CSSW or the police, or managing the matter internally under school behaviour policies.

Where a referral will be made to CSSW or the police under the protocol, the designated safeguarding lead will discuss the issue with the relevant agency and following this discussion a decision will be made on whether and how to inform the alleged perpetrator and their parents.

The school will take any necessary action to continue to safeguard the victim and other pupils within the school environment based on the level of risk established from the risk assessment, including decisions about the victim and alleged perpetrator sharing classrooms. These decisions will be reviewed in the light of on-going police and CSSW investigations to take account of any changes in the status of investigations and any bail conditions placed on the alleged perpetrator.

Where necessary and appropriate, the school will consider the support needs of the alleged perpetrator and will make referrals to relevant agencies for support on their behalf under the *Harmful sexual behaviour* protocol. <https://cscp.org.uk/resources/sexual-harmful-behaviours/>

- *Sexual violence is defined as any act which is an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, including rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault without the consent of the victim.*
- *Sexual harassment is defined as unwanted sexual conduct likely to violate the victim's dignity and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment. This includes making sexual comments or jokes, physical contact such as touching or interfering with clothing or displaying sexual images. It also includes online harassment.*
- *When dealing with incidents, the school should ensure that the written report of the incident contains objective facts and sets out clearly the next steps to be taken, with the views of the victim clearly recorded.*
- *School should be aware of their equality duty as victims of sexual violence and harassment are more likely to be female but should follow the same procedures and ensure the same level of response for incidents involving male pupils or incidents where victim and perpetrator are the same sex.*
- *Cases may be managed internally by the school under without referral to other agencies where the incident involves low-level concerns and is a "one-off" occurrence where there is no further risk to the victim or other pupils.*
- *Schools should give careful thought to the day to day management of risk and support for the victim, taking into account the victim's views when considering practical issues such as separating the victim and perpetrator. However schools must be able to justify any measures taken and that they do not interfere with the educational opportunities of either party.*
- *Schools may wish to consider developing specific policies around responding to incidents of sexual violence and harassment towards staff members.*
- *Schools need to ensure that staff and governors are able to take up training and support offered by Camden Learning around relationships and peer on peer abuse and how these messages should be delivered within the PSHE curriculum. Sexual violence and harassment will also be addressed in general, whole-school safeguarding training delivered by the*

CSCB, with designated safeguarding leads receiving more intense training in view of their role.

9.5 Prevention of radicalisation

The school's safeguarding duty includes the duty to promote British values in order to counter the extremist narrative and prevent young people from being radicalised and drawn into terrorism.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

Under Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the school/college also has a duty to refer young people on to Camden's Channel Panel under the Prevent strategy where there are concerns that they are being radicalised.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

The school/college will follow the guidance set out in the CSCP guidance "Safeguarding children and young people from radicalisation and extremism" where:

- a school/college has concerns that a young person might be considering extremist ideologies and/or may be radicalised and would benefit from specialist support to challenge extremist ideologies, or
- that a younger pupil may be at risk due to their parent's radicalisation.

The guidance is available at: <https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CSCB-guidance-on-radicalisation-and-extremism.pdf>

Schools should always be a safe space for young people to explore new ideas and perspectives, and develop their critical thinking skills. Where there are concerns about radicalisation and a referral under the Prevent duty to Channel Panel is being considered the school should discuss these concerns internally and also consider external advice and guidance where necessary and appropriate.

The school designated safeguarding lead should be consulted for internal advice on making a referral. Prior to making a referral the school may also speak to and get advice from their police schools officer,

- The Police Prevent Engagement Officer Mark Fowler Mark.P.Fowler@met.pnn.police.uk, 0208 733 6014
- Camden's Prevent co-ordinator Albert Simango, albert.simango@camden.gov.uk 020 7974 2010
- or the Prevent Education Officer Jane Murphy, jane.murphy@camden.gov.uk 020 7974 1008

9.6 Mandatory reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The school will follow the statutory guidance on FGM in order to safeguard girls who are at risk of FGM:

[Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation - Publications - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation)

Where a pupil makes a disclosure of FGM, the school/college will follow the mandatory reporting rules and make appropriate referrals to the police as set out in the CSCP guidance available at: <https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FGM-mandatory-reporting-guide.pdf>

All concerns around FGM, including any disclosure made by a pupil, will be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead before any action is taken.

9.7 Online safety

As part of its duty to provide a safe learning environment and ensure pupils are taught how to remain safe online, the school will implement the recommendations of Camden's model schools online policy available at: <https://cscp.org.uk/professionals/schools-and-nurseries-safeguarding-policies/>

9.8 Looked after and previously looked after children and care leavers

The school recognises that looked after and previously looked after children and care leavers are particularly vulnerable due to their status and their pre-care experiences.

The school's designated teacher for LAC and care leavers has specialist knowledge of the issues faced by this cohort and for this reason, the designated safeguarding lead will consult with the designated teacher to seek advice whenever there are concerns about the welfare of a looked after or previously looked after child or care leaver.

We are aware of the new duty to promote the education of previously looked after children; these are defined as children who have left the care system as a result of adoption or special guardianship order. It is recognised that these children may face the same difficulties and have the same vulnerabilities as looked after children.

We consider the potential vulnerability of relevant children; these are children who under the Leaving Care Act are children who are aged 16-17 and who were but are no longer looked after.

9.9 Children with special education needs or disabilities (SEND)

The school is aware that children with special education needs or disabilities may be more vulnerable to harm and abuse and may be more likely to experience bullying. They may also have difficulty in reporting harm and abuse due to communications difficulties and professionals may miss vital indicators.

School policies reflect these issues and recognise that staff need to be able to help this group to overcome barriers to seeking help. The school will follow the CSCP guidance *Safeguarding children with disabilities* available at:

<https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Safeguarding-children-and-young-people-with-disabilities-guidance.pdf>

10 Safeguarding vulnerable groups

The school is aware that some pupils may be living in circumstances that may make them more vulnerable to abuse, neglect or poor outcomes and who may need help or intervention from Early Help Services, CSSW or other agencies in order to overcome problems or keep them safe.

The school will adhere to the following policies in order to respond to the needs of these vulnerable groups.

Children who have a social worker

The school recognises that children who are receiving a social work service from CSSW and who are subject to child in need or child protection plans are likely to have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma and that this could have a negative effect on their behaviour and learning.

CSSW social workers will inform schools whenever a child is receiving a service and the designated safeguarding lead will keep a record of all pupils who have an allocated social worker.

The school will work in partnership with social workers to implement the child's plan in order to support their education and safeguard and promote their welfare. A representative of the school who knows the pupil well will become part of the professional network and will share information about safeguarding risks and attend planning meetings. In their absence, a suitable colleague will deputise for the member of staff or a written report will be provided for meetings.

Children at risk of forced marriage

[*Forced marriage - Detailed guidance - GOV.UK*](#)

Domestic abuse and/or sexual violence

<https://www.cscb-new.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CSCB-domestic-abuse-guidance.pdf>

*Schools can refer young people affected by domestic or sexual violence to the specialist worker based in the Camden Safety Net on **020 7974 1864** for advice and support. Schools and colleges should also be aware that the definition of domestic abuse now includes victims aged 16 and 17 years old and that these victims should be referred to Camden Safety Net for a service in their own right.*

Privately fostered children

<https://cscp.org.uk/resources/private-fostering-resources/>

*Schools have a legal duty to notify Camden of any pupil they know to be privately fostered. Schools should contact the Fostering team on **020 7974 6783** to notify Camden of any private fostering arrangements that come to their notice.*

Young carers

<https://cscp.org.uk/resources/young-carers/>

*If schools have concerns about a pupil they believe to be a young carer, they can contact Family Action on **020 7272 6933** for advice and can refer the pupil on for services and support. Further details can be found on the website.*

www.family-action.org.uk

11 Extra-familial harm and exploitation

The school is aware of the risk to children and young people from extra-familial harm and staff will be vigilant to the indicators of extra-familial harm in relation to pupils at all times.

Whenever staff are made aware of any safeguarding incident or concerning behaviour that has taken place out of the home and that has put a pupil at risk, staff will discuss the matter with the designated safeguarding lead and consider the level and nature of the risk before making decisions on referrals.

Young people experience physical, cognitive and emotional changes during adolescence and will grow more independent, spending more time away from home. They may pursue risky behaviours and as a result, they may face heightened risk from safeguarding threats outside of the home.

These threats may be from within the community, from other pupils at school/college or from their own peer group rather than from within the family and there may be no concerns about parenting other than concerns about supervision. Sources of harm and exploitation can include:

- *child sexual exploitation*
- *child criminal exploitation including county lines*
- *modern slavery and trafficking*
- *gang activity and youth violence*
- *radicalisation.*

Exploitation is a form of abuse involving an imbalance of power within a relationship that allows one party to use this power to manipulate another to carry out an act. The victim may believe that they are acting on their own accord but in fact their consent has been obtained through deception, duress or force and threats of violence.

Factors such as substance misuse and periods of going missing from home or school can also add to young people's vulnerability to extra-familial harm and are often indications that exploitation may be taking place.

Children at risk of sexual exploitation

<https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CSCB-multi-agency-guidance-on-child-sexual-exploitation.pdf>

County lines and criminal exploitation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

Criminal exploitation occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act. Examples of criminal exploitation are:

- *county lines*
- *benefit fraud*
- *forced theft*
- *forced begging*
- *cannabis cultivation*
- *money mule (where the young person's bank account is used by others for money laundering).*

County lines is the most common form of criminal exploitation in Camden and describes when gangs and organised crime groups exploit young people to transport and sell drugs, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the borough. The young people have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs and are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

Indicators include unexplained money, having several mobile phones, frequent calls, being in trouble with the police for possession of drugs, being found in an area to which they have no connection.

Modern slavery and trafficked children

<https://cscp.org.uk/resources/child-trafficking-and-modern-slavery/>

The CSCP protocol provides guidance for agencies where it is thought children have been trafficked into or within the UK or where they are vulnerable to modern slavery/forced labour. This includes young people who are criminally exploited under the county lines model.

Young people at risk from gang activity or serious violence

[Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity - Publications - Inside Government - GOV.UK](#)

School staff are aware of the indicators that a young person may be involved in violent crime or may be being criminally exploited and as such at risk from becoming a victim of violence. Indicators include absenteeism, changes in friendship groups, declining academic performance, changes in emotional welfare and signs of physical assault.

Camden has a comprehensive strategy for reducing the risks posed by gang activity, and schools can refer young people to the Young Person's Advocate based in the Youth Offending Service on 020 7974 6174 for advice.

Children who run away/go missing

<https://cscp.org.uk/resources/missing-children-from-home-and-care/>

Schools should also be aware that many of these forms of exploitation are linked and that going missing from home or from education can be an indicator that young people are involved in child sexual exploitation, gang activity, modern slavery, criminal exploitation and trafficking.

Children and young people experiencing mental health issues

The school recognises that some pupils may experience mental health issues that can negatively affect their behaviour and their ability to participate fully in education.

The school will ensure that staff have an understanding of trauma informed practice and its link with mental health and are able to recognise pupils who are experiencing mental health issues and help them to access the most appropriate help. Where there are safeguarding concerns arising from a pupil's mental health issues, staff will discuss concerns with the designated safeguarding lead to agree any actions to be taken.

The school will ensure that staff are teaching about mental wellbeing (as part of the statutory Health Education) to help reduce the stigma attached to mental and emotional problems. The school will also ensure early identification of pupils who have mental health needs and put in place appropriate support and interventions, including specialist services, where needed. Please see our Mental Health & Well-being Policy.

The school will take account of the government guidance *Mental health and behaviour in schools*.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/755135/Mental_health_and_behaviour_in_schools_.pdf

Policy Ratified	5/10/20
Agreed review schedule	Annually
Next review due	October 2021
Reviewed by (signature)	

Stephen Rust, Chair of FGB

Laura Hall, Head Teacher

APPENDIX 1

CHILD PROTECTION; DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

Definitions

Child protection is part of the safeguarding agenda that focuses on preventing maltreatment and protecting children at risk of neglect or abuse. Under the Children Act 1989, FSSW have a legal duty to investigate and take any action to protect children where there are concerns that they are at risk of suffering **significant harm**, which is defined as:

Neglect: failure to provide basic care to meet the child’s physical needs, such as not providing adequate food, clothing or shelter; failure to protect the child from harm or ensure access to medical care and treatment.

Physical abuse: causing physical harm or injury to a child.

Sexual abuse: involving children in sexual activity, or forcing them to witness sexual activity, which includes involving children in looking at or the production of pornography.

Emotional abuse: failure to provide love and warmth that affects the child’s emotional development; psychological ill treatment of a child through bullying, intimidation or threats.

Possible indicators of abuse and neglect

Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate or inappropriate clothing • Appears underweight and unwell and seems constantly hungry • Failure to thrive physically and appears tired and listless • Dirty or unhygienic appearance • Frequent unexplained absences from school • Lack of parental supervision
Physical abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any injury such as bruising, bite marks, burns or fractures where the explanation given is inconsistent with the injury • Injuries in unexpected places or that are not typical of normal childhood injuries or accidents • High frequency of injuries • Parents seem unconcerned or fail to seek adequate medical treatment
Sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual knowledge or behaviour that is unusually explicit or inappropriate for the child’s age/stage of development • Sexual risk taking behaviour including involvement in sexual exploitation/older boyfriend • Continual, inappropriate or excessive masturbation • Physical symptoms such as injuries to genital or anal area or bruising, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy • Unwillingness to undress for sports
Emotional abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental delay • Attachment difficulties with parents and others • Withdrawal and low self-esteem
Indirect indicators of abuse and neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden changes in behaviour • Withdrawal and low self-esteem • Eating disorders • Aggressive behaviour towards others • Sudden unexplained absences from school • Drug/alcohol misuse • Running away/going missing
Parental attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misusing drugs and/or alcohol • Physical/mental health or learning difficulties • Domestic violence • Avoiding contact with school and other professionals

APPENDIX 2 Additional policies

Schools can access guidance on the following policies at www.nspcc.org.uk and [Department for Education - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk)

Alternative provision

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision>

Anti-discrimination & harassment

Attendance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-responsibility-measures-for-behaviour-and-attendance>

Behaviour and discipline

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools-guidance-for-governing-bodies>

Bullying (including cyberbullying)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288444/preventing_and_tackling_bullying_march14.pdf

Children missing from school

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268987/cme_guidance.pdf

Complaints

Drugs/substance misuse

[Drugs: advice for schools - Publications - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk)

Educational visits

Equality and diversity

Exclusion of pupils

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

Fabricated or induced illness

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277314/Safeguarding_Children_in_whom_illness_is_fabricated_or_induced.pdf

Faith abuse

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-action-plan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief>

First aid and administration of medicines

Supporting children with medical conditions

[Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions - Publications - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk)

No smoking (EYFS)

Mental health

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508847/Mental_Health_and_Behaviour_-_advice_for_Schools_160316.pdf

Physical intervention

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268771/use_of_reasonable_force_-_advice_for_headteachers_staff_and_governing_bodies_-_final_july_2013_001.pdf

Private fostering

Promoting British values/Radicalisation and violent extremism

[Promoting fundamental British values through SMSC - Publications - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk)

SRE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Sexting

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/545997/Sexting_in_schools_and_colleges_UKCCIS_4.pdf

Gender-based violence/teenage relationship abuse

Trafficking

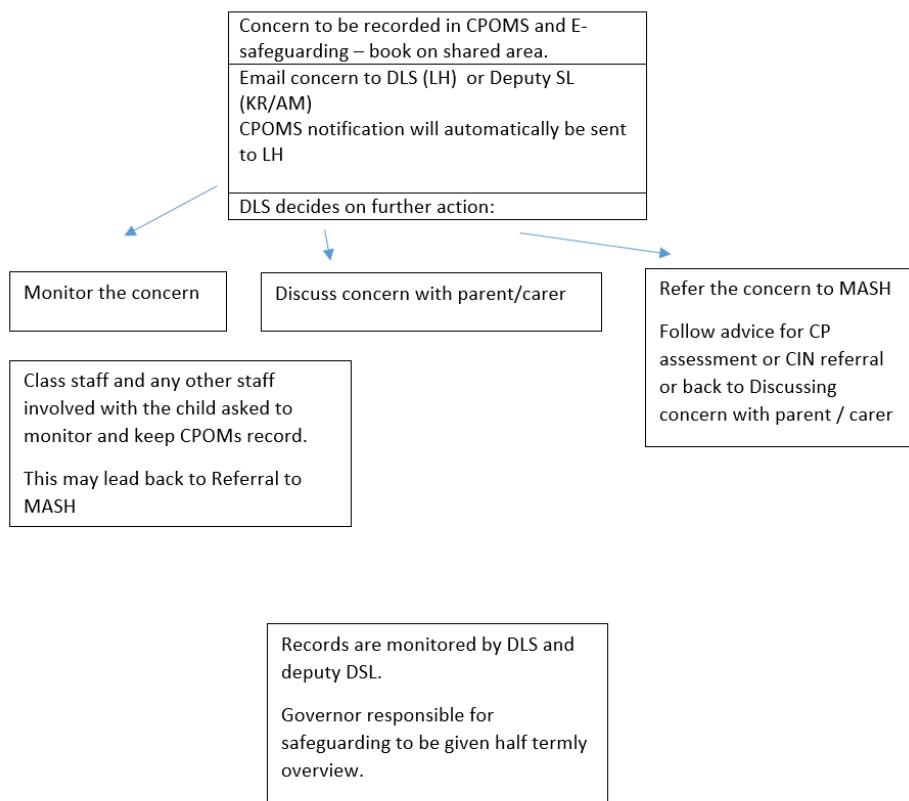
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/177033/DFE-00084-2011.pdf

Health and safety

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-and-safety-in-schools>

APPENDIX 3

Safeguarding Concern Actions:



APPENDIX 4

Guidance on hearing a disclosure

Keeping our Children Safe: Hearing a Disclosure

Ensure you:

- Listen to children—stop yourself from interrupting them with questions.
- Don't make promises
- Don't make judgements
- Remain calm and non committal
- Don't ask too many questions—we are the referrals NOT the Investigators.
- Silence—give children time
- Repeat what the child says back to them eg. "So what you are saying is"
- Talk to the child on their level, kneel down.
- Record what child has using speech marks
- Record non verbal communication eg. Child was crying

**ALWAYS RECORD ON E-Safeguarding book and CPOMs
AND PASS ONTO DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

APPENDIX 5 – E-Safeguarding Book

Information recorded:

- Account of concern: what was said, observed,
- Who witnessed it: adults and children
- Dates/times
- Relevant information from previous accounts
- The response given

Records of follow up and actions will be recorded on CPOMS and shared where appropriate