

Medina Primary School



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Reviewed by	Governing Body	Authorised by	A McGarvey (Headteacher)
Last Review	September 2025	Date	September 2026
Next Review	September 2027	Review Cycle	Annually

Signed by
A McGarvey

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Child Protection Statement

Medina Primary School recognises its moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming environment underpinned by a culture of openness where both children and adults feel secure, able to talk and believe that they are being listened to. We maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” where safeguarding is concerned. The purpose of this policy is to provide staff, volunteers and governors with the framework they need in order to keep children safe and secure in our school and to inform parents and guardians how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care. Specific guidance is available to staff within the procedure documents contained in this policy.

All staff, children, parents and visitors are required to act safely and to co-operate in meeting these obligations. Medina Primary School believes that child protection is the responsibility of all adults. The school will encourage employees to take an active role in ensuring that the highest standard of child protection is extended to all our children.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Safeguarding Lead and shared with the Governors in Summer Term or Autumn Term at the latest.

We will educate and encourage children to keep safe through the content of the curriculum ([including Relationship Education statutory from 2025](#)) and an ethos which helps children to feel safe and able to talk freely about their concerns, secure in the knowledge that they will be listened to and valued.

This Policy must be read alongside other policies relating to Safeguarding and Child Protection, specifically the requirement to ensure the following procedures are in place:

- Employment checks must be carried out in compliance with regulation.
- Temporary and supply staff must be fully briefed about the school's safeguarding procedures.
- All visitors must be briefed on arrival about what to do if they see or hear anything which concerns them. Visitors whose DBS has not been recorded in the school's single central record must be accompanied at all times and wear an InVentry Visitors badge and red lanyard. Visitors whose DBS has been recorded in the school's single central record or are school support professionals, such as Local Authority Professionals/Supply Teachers, must be issued with an InVentry Visitors badge and a green lanyard alongside their professional identification badge and are not required to be supervised. All staff and visitors must sign in and out of the InVentry system located in the school office.

1. The legal framework within which this policy stands

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2025\)](#) and [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#), the [Maintained schools governance guide](#) and [Academy trust governance guide](#). We comply with this guidance and the arrangements agreed and published by Portsmouth Safeguarding Child Partnership (PSCP). Local Safeguarding Children Board protocols and guidance can be found using this link:

Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board [PSCB procedures](#)

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- Section 175 of the [Education Act 2002](#), which places a duty on schools and authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- [The School Staffing \(England\) Regulations 2009](#), which set out what must be recorded on the single central record and the requirement for at least one person on a school interview/appointment panel to be trained in safer recruitment techniques
- [The Children Act 1989](#) (and [2004 amendment](#)), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
- The [Childcare \(Disqualification\) Regulations 2009](#) (and [2018 amendment](#)) and [Childcare Act 2006](#), which set out who is disqualified from working with children
- Section 5B(11) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as inserted by section 74 of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#), which places a statutory duty on teachers to report to the police where they discover that female genital mutilation (FGM) appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18
- [Statutory guidance on FGM](#), which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM
- The [Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children
- Schedule 4 of the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#), which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children
- [Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty](#), which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism
- The [Human Rights Act 1998](#), which explains that being subjected to harassment, violence and/or abuse, including that of a sexual nature, may breach any or all of the rights which apply to individuals under the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) (ECHR)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#), which makes it unlawful to discriminate against people regarding particular protected characteristics (including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation). This means our governors and headteacher should carefully consider how they are supporting their pupils with regard to these characteristics. The Act allows our school to take positive action to deal with particular disadvantages affecting a specific group of pupils (where we can show it's proportionate). This includes a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils. For example, it could include taking positive action to support girls where there's evidence that they're being disproportionately subjected to sexual violence or harassment
- [The Public Sector Equality Duty \(PSED\)](#), which explains that we must have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The PSED helps us to focus on key issues of concern and how to improve pupil outcomes. Some pupils may be more at risk of harm from issues such as: sexual violence, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying or racial discrimination
- This policy also meets the requirements relating to safeguarding and welfare in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#)

Equality statement

Some children have an increased risk of abuse, and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children's diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face.

We give special consideration to children who:

- Have special educational needs or disabilities
- Are young carers
- May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality
- Have English as an additional language
- Are known to be living in difficult situations – for example, temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence
- Are at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, or radicalisation
- Are asylum seekers
- Are privately fostered

Aims

- To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in so doing ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the school.
- To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children.

Principles and Values

- Children have a right to feel secure and cannot learn effectively unless they do so
- All children regardless of age, gender including transgender, race, disability, sexuality, religion and non-religion, culture or language have a right to be protected from harm
- All staff have a key role in prevention of harm and an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in the school or in the community
- We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces risk and so we will engage in partnership working throughout the child protection process to safeguard children
- Whilst the school will work openly with parents as far as possible, we have the responsibility and the right to contact children's social care or the police, without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests.
- All adults working within the school should maintain professional curiosity if they are concerned about a child.

Leadership and management

We recognise that staff anxiety around child protection can undermine good practice and so have established clear lines of accountability, training and advice to support the process and individual staff within that process.

In this school, any individual can contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if they have concerns about a young person. There is a nominated safeguarding governor, who will take leadership responsibility for safeguarding. The Chair of Governors will receive reports of allegations against the headteacher.

In this Primary, roles are allocated as follows:

Role	Name	Contact
Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Amanda McGarvey	contact through admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s):	Sam Sinclair (Deputy Head)	contact through admin@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk
Safeguarding Governor	Marie Stuart	cog@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Kelly Nash	contact through cog@medina.portsmouth.sch.uk
School Telephone		023 9237 5475
Contact for Portsmouth MASH: During Office Hours (Monday to Friday):		0845 671 0271/02392 688793
Out of Office Hours:		0300 555 1373
Portsmouth LADO		02392 882500

MASH guidance, Inter Agency Contact Form and the PSCB Threshold Document can be found at the following webpage:

<https://www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/2-worried-about-a-child/>

Detailed descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of leadership are set out in Annex 1.

3.3 Training

All staff at Medina are expected to be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and must be able to respond appropriately.

As a minimum, the school aims to provide:

- Annual safeguarding training for all staff, every year;
- the same training as part of induction for staff joining mid-year;
- relevant training to ensure staff appointed to specific roles can undertake that role effectively
- timely updates to all relevant staff on changes to local or national policy or practice.

Training was updated in September 2026 to reference new and current legislation of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2026).

All staff received Prevent training through online training

The head teacher, SLT, admin manager and relevant governors have attended Safer Recruitment Training. This will be updated in line with published guidance.

Recognising abuse and taking action

All staff are expected to be able to identify and recognise all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation and shall be alert to the potential need for **Family** help for a child who:

- Has a disability
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education health and care (EHC) plan)
- Is a young carer
- Is bereaved
- Is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including being affected by gangs

and county lines and organised crime groups and/or serious violence, including knife crime

- Is frequently missing/goes missing from education, care or home
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual and/or criminal exploitation
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Is viewing problematic and/or inappropriate online content (for example, linked to violence), or developing inappropriate relationships online
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol
- Is suffering from mental ill health
- Has returned home to their family from care
- Is at risk of so-called 'honour'-based abuse such as female genital mutilation (FGM) or forced marriage
- Is a privately fostered child
- Has a parent or carer in custody or is affected by parental offending
- Is missing education, or persistently absent from school, or not in receipt of full-time education
- Has experienced multiple suspensions and is at risk of, or has been permanently excluded
- Is on a part-time timetable (RTT)
- Has been repeatedly removed from the classroom due to behaviour.

Staff, volunteers and governors must follow the procedures set out below in the event of a child protection / safeguarding issue.

Please note – in this and subsequent sections, you should take any references to the DSL to mean 'the DSL (or deputy DSL)'.

If a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm, or in immediate danger

Make a referral to local authority children's social care and/or the police **immediately** if you believe a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or is in immediate danger. **Anyone can make a referral.**

Contact for Portsmouth MASH:

During Office Hours (Monday to Friday): 0845 671 0271/02392 688793

Out of Office Hours: 0300 555 1373

MASH guidance, Inter Agency Contact Form and the PSCB Threshold Document can be found at the following webpage:

<https://www.portsmouthscb.org.uk/worried-about-a-child-suffering-from-harm/>

Tell the DSL as soon as possible if you make a referral directly.

If a child makes a disclosure to you

If a child discloses a safeguarding issue to you, you should:

- Listen to and believe them. Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions
- Stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset
- Tell the child they have done the right thing in telling you. Do not tell them they should have told you sooner

- Explain what will happen next and that you will have to pass this information on. Do not promise to keep it a secret
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible in the child's own words. Stick to the facts, and do not put your own judgement on it
- Sign and date the write-up and pass it on to the DSL and also add to CPOMs. Alternatively, if appropriate, make a referral to local authority children's social care and/or the police directly, and tell the DSL as soon as possible that you have done so. Aside from these people, do not disclose the information to anyone else unless told to do so by a relevant authority involved in the safeguarding process

N.B. The exception to this process will be in those cases of known FGM where there is a mandatory requirement for the teacher to report directly to the police, although the DSL should also be made aware. Bear in mind that some children may:

- Not feel ready, or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected
- Not recognise their experiences as harmful
- Feel embarrassed, humiliated or threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability, sexual orientation and/or language barriers

None of this should stop you from having a 'professional curiosity' and speaking to the DSL if you have concerns about a child.

Detailed guidance for responding to disclosures is contained in Annex 4

Detailed guidance for DSLs in how to follow-up a concern is contained Annex 5

Referral

If it is appropriate to refer the case to local authority children's social care or the police, the DSL will make the referral or support you to do so.

If you make a referral directly, you must tell the DSL as soon as possible.

The local authority should make a decision within 1 working day of a referral about what course of action to take and will let the person who made the referral know the outcome. The DSL or person who made the referral must follow up with the local authority if this information is not made available, and ensure outcomes are properly recorded.

If the child's situation does not seem to be improving after the referral, the DSL or person who made the referral must follow local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and that the child's situation improves.

Confidentiality

- "The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe" (KCSiE 2026). This includes sharing information without consent if doing so prevents the child being at further risk of harm.
- We maintain that all matters relating to child protection are to be treated as confidential and only shared as per the '[Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners](#)' (DfE 2024) guidance.
- There is a lawful basis for child protection concerns to be shared with agencies who have a statutory duty for child protection.
- All staff are aware that they cannot promise a child to keep a disclosure confidential.
- Parents will be made aware of the requirements to maintain confidentiality about any allegations against staff whilst investigations are ongoing as set out in section 141F of the Education Act 2002.

As a school we will educate pupils to recognise when they are at risk and how to get help when they need it through:

- The content of the curriculum will be tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individual children, including children who are victims of abuse, and children with SEND
- A school ethos which helps children to feel safe and able to talk freely about their concerns, believing that they will be listened to and valued.
- Every child having access to a 'trusted adult' in the school.
- Children will be taught about how to keep themselves and others safe when on-line.

Dealing with allegations against staff, supply teacher, volunteer or contractor

If you have concerns about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor), or an allegation is made about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) posing a risk of harm to children, speak to the headteacher **Mrs McGarvey** as soon as possible. If the concerns/allegations are about the headteacher, speak to the chair of governors.

The headteacher/chair of governors will then follow the procedures set out in annex 5, if appropriate.

Where you believe there is a conflict of interest in reporting a concern or allegation about a member of staff (including a supply teacher, volunteer or contractor) to the headteacher, report it directly to the local authority designated officer (LADO).

If you receive an allegation relating to an incident where an individual or organisation was using the school premises for running an activity for children, follow our school safeguarding policies and procedures, informing the LADO, as you would with any safeguarding allegation.

Portsmouth LADO: 02392 882500

In liaison with the LADO, the school will determine how to proceed and if necessary the LADO will refer the matter to children's social care and/or the police.

School will not cease to employ a supply teacher or a volunteer until all facts have been sought and in liaison with LADO.

Medina Primary will act to minimise the stress inherent with the allegations process. The individuals will be kept informed of the progress of the concerns including explanation of the likely course of action. All parties will be offered access to welfare counselling.

Whistle-blowing in a safeguarding context

The school adheres to Portsmouth City Council's Whistle-blowing policy. A copy is available on request. This does not replace the whistleblowing policy and should be read in conjunction with the school policy.

The whistleblowing policy is not designed to be used for concerns that fall under statutory procedures (for example child protection or allegations against staff) as these should be reported under the relevant procedures. However, the whistleblowing policy will apply if there is good reason to believe that the relevant procedure is not being followed or will not be followed effectively.

Within Medina Primary School, the Headteacher is the senior manager and responsible for all staff. If you are concerned that any member of staff within the school is not following safeguarding processes or behaving in a way that is placing children at risk, you should make the headteacher aware.

If your concern is about the headteacher, you should raise this with the Chair of Governors.

Dealing with allegations against children including child-on-child abuse including sexual abuse and harassment.

Medina Primary School believes that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. In most instances, the conduct of children towards each other will be covered by the behaviour policy. Some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns and these will be dealt with under this policy and in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026). These allegations are most likely to include physical abuse,

emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

Responding to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment:

- Children making a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment will be taken seriously, kept safe and be supported.
- Understanding that our initial response to a report from a child is incredibly important and can encourage or undermine the confidence of victims of sexual violence and harassment to report or to come forward in the future.
- If the report includes an online element, staff will be mindful of the Searching, Screening and Confiscation: advice for schools (DfE 2022): [Searching, Screening and Confiscation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance) guidance.
- Staff taking the report will inform the DSL or their Deputy as soon as practicably possible but at least within 24 hours.
- Staff taking a report will never promise confidentiality.
- Parents or carers will normally be informed (unless this would put the child at greater risk).
- If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral will be made to Children's Social Care Portsmouth MASH: 0845 671 0271

Action: The DSL will consider: -

- The wishes of the victim.
- The nature of the incident including whether a crime has been committed and the harm caused.
- Ages of the children/young people involved.
- Developmental stages of the children/young people.
- Any power imbalance between the children/young people.
- Any previous incidents.
- On-going risks.
- Other related issues or wider context.

Options: The DSL will manage the report with the following options: -

- Manage internally
- Refer to **Family** Help
- Refer to Children's Social Care
- Report to the police (generally in parallel with a referral to Social Care) if it is in keeping with the National Police Chiefs Council "[When to call the Police](#)" guidance. The rationale for this decision should be recorded by the DSL.

Ongoing Response:

- **All** concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Records should be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified and addressed.
- The DSL will manage each report on a case-by-case basis.
- Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator should be removed from any classes they share with the victim during that investigation.
- The DSL will consider how best to keep the victim and perpetrator apart on school premises and transport where appropriate.
- Where a criminal investigation into a rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, the school will take suitable action. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances, the rape or assault is likely to constitute a serious breach of discipline and lead to the view, that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the same school or college would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim (and potentially other pupils and students).

- Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the school or college will, if it has not already, consider any suitable sanctions in light of their behaviour policy, including consideration of permanent exclusion. Where the perpetrator is going to remain at the school or college, the principle of keeping the victim and perpetrator in separate classes where possible should be maintained and continued. Consideration would be given to the most appropriate way to manage potential contact on school and college premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution and wishes of the victim will be especially important in determining how to proceed in such cases.
- The victim, alleged perpetrator and other witnesses (children and adults) will receive appropriate support and safeguards on a case-by-case basis.
 - When ongoing support is required by the victim, the victim should be asked whether they would find it helpful to have a designated trusted adult to talk about their needs. The choice of any such adult should be made by the victims (as far as reasonably possible) and this choice should be supported.
- The school will take any disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator in line with behaviour and discipline in the school.
- The school recognises that taking disciplinary action and providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions and will occur at the same time if necessary.

Minimising the risk of child on child abuse

We will minimise the risk of child on child abuse by:

- taking a whole school approach to safeguarding and child protection
- providing training for staff;
- providing a clear set of values and standards, underpinned by the behaviour policy and pastoral support system and by planned programme of evidence-based content delivered through the curriculum and
- engaging with specialist support and interventions.

For further information on child-on-child abuse see Safeguarding Policy.

Annual review

This policy is to be reviewed at least annually in line with DfE, Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board and other relevant statutory guidance.

Last Review	September 2026
Reviewed by	Amanda McGarvey
Review Date	September 2027

For further information on child abuse including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse/harassment and neglect see the Safeguarding Policy. This includes information on other specific safeguarding concerns such as CAE (including attendance reporting requirements), FGM, County Lines, radicalisation, Child Sexual Exploitation, peer-on-peer abuse, upskirting, hazing, AI, and Mental Health. The Safeguarding Policy also contains guidance for Online safety including Filtering and Monitoring arrangements, Online safety and cyber-bullying.

Roles and responsibilities within Medina Primary**Staff responsibilities**

Safeguarding and child protection is **everyone's** responsibility. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and governors in the school and is consistent with the procedures of PSCP. Our policy and procedures also apply to extended school and off-site activities.

The school plays a crucial role in preventative education. This is in the context of a whole-school approach to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain, and a culture of zero tolerance of sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and sexual violence/harassment. This will be underpinned by our:

- Behaviour policy
- Pastoral support
- Planned programme of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE), which is inclusive and delivered regularly, tackling issues such as:
 - o Healthy and respectful relationships
 - o Boundaries and consent
 - o Stereotyping, prejudice and equality
 - o Body confidence and self-esteem
 - o How to recognise an abusive relationship (including coercive and controlling behaviour)
 - o The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, so-called honour-based violence such as forced marriage and FGM and how to access support
 - o What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why they're always unacceptable

All staff will:

- Read and understand part 1 of the Department for Education's statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), and review this guidance at least annually
- Sign a declaration at the beginning of each academic year to say that they have reviewed the guidance
- Reinforce the importance of online safety when communicating with parents and carers. This includes making parents and carers aware of what we ask children to do online (e.g. sites they need to visit or who they'll be interacting with online)
- Provide a safe space for pupils who are LGBTQ+ to speak out and share their concerns

All staff will be aware of:

- Our systems that support safeguarding, including this child protection policy, the school safeguarding policy, the staff code of conduct, the role and identity of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies, the behaviour policy, and the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education/who are absent from education. The Family help assessment process and their role in it, including identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL, and sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment
- The process for making referrals to local authority children's social care and for statutory assessments that may follow a referral, including the role they might be expected to play
- What to do if they identify a safeguarding issue or a child tells them they are being abused or neglected, including specific issues such as FGM, and how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality while liaising with relevant professionals
- The signs of different types of abuse, neglect and exploitation, including domestic and sexual abuse (including controlling and coercive behaviour, as well as parental conflict that is frequent, intense, and unresolved), as well as specific safeguarding issues, such as child-on-child abuse, grooming, child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), indicators of being at risk from or involved with serious violent crime, FGM, radicalisation and serious violence (including that linked to county

lines)

- New and emerging threats, including online harm, grooming, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, radicalisation, and the role of technology and social media in presenting harm
- The importance of reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe
- The fact that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of their home, at school and online
- The fact that children who are (or who are perceived to be) lesbian, gay, bisexual or gender questioning (LGBTQ+) can be targeted by other children
- That a child and their family may be experiencing multiple needs at the same time
- What to look for to identify children who need help or protection

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The DSL is a member of the senior leadership team. Our DSL is Headteacher. The DSL takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding in the school. This includes online safety, and understanding our filtering and monitoring processes on school devices and school networks to keep pupils safe online.

During term time, the DSL will be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Out of school hours the DSL can be contacted by phone or email.

When the DSL is absent, the deputies – Deputy headteacher and SENCO will act as cover. The DSL will be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to:

- Provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters
- Take part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so
- Contribute to the assessment of children
- Refer suspected cases, as appropriate, to the relevant body (local authority children's social care, Channel programme, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and/or police), and support staff who make such referrals directly
- Have a good understanding of harmful sexual behaviour
- Have a good understanding of the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place at our school
- Make sure that staff have appropriate Prevent training and induction

The DSL will also:

- Liaise with local authority case managers and designated officers for child protection concerns as appropriate
- Discuss the local response to sexual violence and sexual harassment with police and local authority children's social care colleagues to prepare the school's policies
- Be confident that they know what local specialist support is available to support all children involved (including victims and alleged perpetrators) in sexual violence and sexual harassment, and be confident as to how to access this support
- Be aware that children must have an 'appropriate adult' to support and help them in the case of a police investigation or search

The full responsibilities of the DSL and deputies are set out in their job description.

The governing body

The governing board will:

- Facilitate a whole-school approach to safeguarding, ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront of, and underpin, all relevant aspects of process and policy development

- Evaluate and approve this policy at each review, ensuring it complies with the law, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation
- Be aware of its obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and our school's local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Appoint a link governor to monitor the effectiveness of this policy in conjunction with the full governing board. This is always a different person from the DSL
- Ensure all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, and that such training is regularly updated and is in line with advice from the safeguarding partners
- Ensure that the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place, and review their effectiveness. This includes:
 - Making sure that the leadership team and staff are aware of the provisions in place, and that they understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring as part of safeguarding training
 - Reviewing the [DfE's filtering and monitoring standards](#), and discussing with IT staff and service providers what needs to be done to support the school in meeting these standards
- Make sure:
 - The DSL has the appropriate status and authority to carry out their job, including additional time, funding, training, resources and support
 - Online safety is a running and interrelated theme within the whole-school approach to safeguarding and related policies
 - The DSL has lead authority for safeguarding, including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place
 - The school has procedures to manage any safeguarding concerns (no matter how small) or allegations that do not meet the harm threshold (low-level concerns) about staff members (including supply staff, volunteers and contractors). Appendix 3 of this policy covers this procedure
 - That this policy reflects that children with SEND, or certain medical or physical health conditions, can face additional barriers to any abuse or neglect being recognised
- Where another body is providing services or activities (regardless of whether or not the children who attend these services/activities are children on the school roll):
 - Seek assurance that the other body has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies/procedures in place, and inspect them if needed
 - Make sure there are arrangements for the body to liaise with the school about safeguarding arrangements, where appropriate
 - Make sure that safeguarding requirements are a condition of using the school premises, and that any agreement to use the premises would be terminated if the other body fails to comply

The chair of governors will act as the 'case manager' in the event that an allegation of abuse is made against the headteacher, where appropriate.

All governors will read Keeping Children Safe in Education in its entirety.

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including:

- Ensuring that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers:
 - Are informed of our systems that support safeguarding, including this policy, as part of their induction
 - Understand and follow the procedures included in this policy, particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect

- Communicating this policy to parents/carers when their child joins the school and via the school website
- Ensuring that the DSL has appropriate time, funding, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent
- Acting as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse made against another member of staff or volunteer, where appropriate
- Making decisions regarding all low-level concerns
- Ensuring the relevant staffing ratios are met, where applicable
- Making sure each child in the Early Years Foundation Stage is assigned a key person
- Overseeing the safe use of technology, and devices like mobile phones and cameras in the setting

Dealing with disclosures**Dealing with disclosures****All staff should:**

Members of staff who are approached by a child should listen positively and try to reassure them. They cannot promise complete confidentiality and should explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe. The degree of confidentiality should always be governed by the need to protect the child.

Additional consideration needs to be given to children with communication difficulties and for those whose first language is not English. It is important to communicate with them in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference.

All staff should know who the DSL is and who to approach if the DSL is unavailable. Ultimately, all staff have the right to make a referral to the police or social care directly and should do this if, for whatever reason, there are difficulties following the agreed protocol, e.g. they are the only adult on the school premises at the time and have concerns about sending a child home.

Guiding principles, the seven R's**Receive**

- Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is said and take it seriously
- Make a note of what has been said as soon as practicable but not in front of the child

Reassure

- Reassure the child, but only so far as is honest and reliable
- Don't make promises you may not be able to keep e.g. 'I'll stay with you' or 'everything will be alright now' or 'I'll keep this confidential'
- Do reassure e.g. you could say: 'I believe you', 'I am glad you came to me', 'I am sorry this has happened', 'We are going to do something together to get help'

Respond

- Respond to the child only as far as is necessary for you to establish whether or not you need to refer this matter, but do not interrogate for full details
- Do not ask 'leading' questions i.e. 'did he touch your private parts?' or 'did she hurt you?' Such questions may invalidate your evidence (and the child's) in any later prosecution in court
- Do not ask the child why something has happened.
- Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator; the child may care about him/her, and reconciliation may be possible
- Do not ask the child to repeat it all for another member of staff. Explain what you have to do next and whom you have to talk to. Reassure the child that it will be a senior member of staff

Report

- Share concerns with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as soon as possible • If you are not able to contact the DSL, and the child is at risk of immediate harm, contact the children's social services directly
- If you are dissatisfied with the level of response you receive following your concerns, you should press for re-consideration

Record

- If possible make some very brief notes at the time, and log on CPOMS as soon as possible •

Keep your original notes in the child protection file in the DSL office

- Record the date, time, place, person's present and noticeable nonverbal behaviour, and the exact words used by the child. If the child uses sexual 'pet' words, record the actual words used, rather than translating them into 'proper' words
- Complete a body map to indicate the position of any noticeable injury
- Record facts and observable things, rather than your 'interpretations' or 'assumptions'

Remember

- Support the child: listen, reassure, and be available
- Complete confidentiality is essential. Share your knowledge only with appropriate professional colleagues
- Try to get some support for yourself if you need it
- All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell somebody that they are being abuse, exploited or neglected and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.

Review (led by DSL)

- Has the action taken provided good outcomes for the child?
- Did the procedure work?
- Were any deficiencies or weaknesses identified in the procedure? Have these been remedied?
- Is further training required?

What happens next?

It is important that concerns are followed up and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they are. The member of staff should be informed by the DSL what has happened following the report being made. If they do not receive this information they should be proactive in seeking it out. If they have concerns that the disclosure has not been acted upon appropriately they might inform the safeguarding governor of the school and/or may ultimately contact the children's services department.

Receiving a disclosure can be upsetting for the member of staff and schools should have a procedure for supporting them after the disclosure. This might include reassurance that they have followed procedure correctly and that their swift actions will enable the allegations to be handled appropriately.

In some cases, additional counselling might be needed and they should be encouraged to recognise that disclosures can have an impact on their own emotions.

Procedure for DSLs receiving concern**Following a report of concerns from a member of staff, the DSL must:**

1. Decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for suspecting significant harm in which case a referral must be made to children's social care or the police if appropriate.
2. Normally the school should try to discuss any concerns about a child's welfare with the family and where possible to seek their agreement before making a referral to children's social care. However, in accordance with DfE guidance, this should only be done when it will not place the child at increased risk or could impact a police investigation. The child's views should also be taken into account.
3. If there are grounds to suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm they must contact children's social care via the MASH and make a clear statement of:
 - the known facts
 - any suspicions or allegations
 - whether or not there has been any contact with the child's family

If the DSL feels unsure about whether a referral is necessary, they can phone MASH to discuss concerns

1. If there is not a risk of significant harm, then the DSL will either actively monitor the situation or consider the early help process
2. The DSL must confirm any referrals in writing to children's social care, within 24 hours, including the actions that have been taken. The written referral must be made using the Inter-agency Referral Form which will provide children's social care with the supplementary information required about the child and family's circumstances.
3. If a child is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the police must be called. The DSL must also notify children's social care of the occurrence and what action has been taken.
4. Where there are doubts or reservations about involving the child's family, the DSL should clarify with children's social care or the police whether the parents should be told about the referral and, if so, when and by whom. This is important in cases where the police may need to conduct a criminal investigation.
5. When a child is in need of *urgent* medical attention and there is suspicion of abuse the DSL or headteacher should take the child to the accident and emergency unit at the nearest hospital, having first notified children's social care. The DSL should seek advice about what action children's social care will take and about informing the parents, remembering that parents should normally be informed that a child requires urgent hospital attention.
6. If the DSL deems MASH/Social Care involvement has been unsatisfactory, it is their responsibility to escalate this to ensure that the child is not placed in further/ongoing risk of harm.

Procedure for DSL on receiving allegation of child-on-child abuse

- A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances
 - The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both children's files/ report on CPOMs.
 - The DSL should follow local procedure to discuss the case with MASH
 - The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a referral where appropriate
 - If the allegation indicates that a potential criminal offence has taken place MASH will communicate that the police will become involved
 - Parents, of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim, should be informed and kept updated on the progress of the referral unless this would put a child at greater risk
 - It may be appropriate to exclude the child being complained about for a period of time according to the school's behaviour policy and procedures
 - Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures
 - In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan, considering:
 - The victim, especially their protection and support
 - The alleged perpetrator, their support needs and any disciplinary action
- All other children at the school
- Contact between the victim and the alleged perpetrator
N.B. use of Restorative Practice should be considered
 - The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned
 - Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator should be removed from any classes they share with the victim. • Where criminal investigation into a serious sexual assault (rape/penetration) leads to a conviction or caution, the school will take suitable action. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances, the assault is likely to constitute a serious breach of discipline and lead to the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the same school as the victim would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim and potentially other children.
 - Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the school will, if it has not already, consider any suitable sanctions in light of their behaviour policy, including consideration of permanent exclusion. Where the perpetrator is going to remain at the school, the headteacher should be to continue keeping the victim and perpetrator separate and consideration must be made of how best to achieve this and manage potential contact. The nature of the conviction or caution and wishes of the victim will be especially important in determining how to proceed in such cases.
 - The victim, alleged perpetrator and other witnesses will receive appropriate support and safeguards on a case-by-case basis.
 - The school will take any disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator in line with their behaviour policy.
 - The school recognises that taking disciplinary action and providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions and will occur at the same time if necessary.

Physical Abuse

- While a clear focus of peer-on-peer abuse is around sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults, initiation violence and rituals from children to children can also be abusive. • These are equally not tolerated and if it is believed that a crime has been committed, will be reported

to the police.

Medina School has a tough stance on bullying, as outlined in the Behaviour and Inclusion Policy.

References:

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges (DfE 2018)

Preventing radicalisation

Schools have a duty to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism. The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training and make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to identify children at risk. DSL will familiarise themselves with current guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance> and also be aware of the Channel programme in case a referral is made through Prevent. More information on Channel available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

We will assess the risk of children in our school being drawn into terrorism. This assessment will be based on an understanding of the potential risk in our local area, in collaboration with our local safeguarding children board and local police force. Consideration will be given to children who may be more susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.

We will ensure that suitable internet filtering is in place, and equip our children to stay safe online at school and at home.

Staff will be alert to changes in children's behaviour.

The government website [Educate Against Hate](#) and charity [NSPCC](#) say that signs that a child is being radicalised can include:

- Refusal to engage with, or becoming abusive to, peers who are different from themselves • Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution • Changes in friendship groups and appearance
- Rejecting activities they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- An unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups, or justification of their actions • Accessing extremist material online, including on Facebook or Twitter
- Possessing extremist literature
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining, or seeking to join, extremist organisations

Children who are at risk of or who are more susceptible to radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. It is important to note that these signs can also be part of normal teenage behaviour – staff should have confidence in their instincts and seek advice if something feels wrong.

If staff are concerned about a child, they will follow procedures set out in this policy, including discussing their concerns with the DSL.

Staff should **always** take action if they are worried.

Sharing of Nudes and Semi-Nudes — How to Respond to an Incident

This document provides a brief overview for frontline staff on how to respond to incidents where nude or semi-nude imagery, videos, or live streams have been created, requested, or shared by or between children and young people under the age of 18.

All such incidents must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL, who will lead the response in line with school policy.

The DSL must refer to the updated statutory guidance from the **UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS)**, *Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people*, when managing any incident.

Scope and Definitions

- **What is covered:** The sending, posting, requesting, or creating of nude or semi-nude images, videos, or live streams online (via social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, or direct device-to-device transfers). This explicitly includes **digitally altered images, AI-generated imagery, and deepfakes** involving under-18s.
- **Adult Involvement:** This guidance does **not** apply to incidents involving adults sharing, soliciting, or possessing nude or semi-nude images of under-18s. That constitutes child sexual abuse and exploitation and must be referred to the police immediately.

What to Do If an Incident Comes to Your Attention

Report it to your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL immediately.

- **Never view, copy, print, share, store, or download the imagery yourself**, or ask a child to share or download it — doing so is illegal. (*Note: Exceptional decisions to view imagery for immediate safeguarding purposes rest solely with the DSL under strict SLT authorization*).
- **If you view the imagery by accident** (e.g., if a child shows it to you before you can prevent them), report this immediately to the DSL and seek support.
- **Do not delete the imagery** or instruct the child or young person to delete it.
- **Do not ask the child/children involved to disclose detailed information** or interrogate them regarding the imagery. Gathering information is the responsibility of the DSL.
- **Do not share information about the incident** with other members of staff, other pupils, or parents/carers. Maintain strict confidentiality while handing over to the DSL.
- **Do not say or do anything to blame or shame** any children involved. Reassure them that the motivations behind sharing nudes/semi-nudes vary and that they will be supported.
- **Explain to the child what will happen next:** Reassure them that you need to pass this to the DSL so that they can receive appropriate help and protection.

Further Information and Guidance

- **UKCIS Guidance:** *Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people* (GOV.UK)
- **IWF (Internet Watch Foundation):** For reporting illegal content online and removing imagery.
- **Take It Down (NCMEC) / StopNCII:** Supporting young people to remove non-consensual imagery from the internet

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Online Safety

As a school it is essential that we safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

A comprehensive approach to online safety empowers staff to protect and educate pupils, students, and colleagues in their use of technology and establishes the following mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.
- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes'.
- **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **commerce** - risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If we feel pupils, students or staff are at risk, we will report it to the Anti Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org/>).

We ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme when devising and implementing policies and procedures.

There is appropriate filtering and monitoring in place on all school devices and school networks. The effectiveness of these systems is reviewed at least annually by the SLT, DSL, and IT support provider (Rocket), and a formal written record of these reviews and testing checks is retained by the Headteacher. That staff training should include understanding roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring. To support schools with this the DfE have produced the following guidance: [Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Identification - Staff and visitor management procedures

The issuing of identity badges to staff, governors and all visitors to the school is a vital component of the safeguarding expectations.

1. STAFF ID BADGE

All staff should be issued with an identify badge. Everyone should be issued with and wear their photo ID at all times.

2. VISITOR ID BADGE

The school has a legal duty of care for the health, safeguarding, safety, security and wellbeing of all children and staff. This duty of care incorporates the duty to “safeguard” all children from subjection to any form of harm, abuse or nuisance. The school therefore requires that ALL VISITORS (without exception) are issued with an InVentry Visitor badge and a lanyard.

For the purpose of this procedure a Visitor may be:

- Supply or Agency staff
- External visitors entering the school site during the school day or for after school activities (including peripatetic tutors, sports coaches, and topic related visitors e.g. authors, journalists)
- Parents
- Volunteers
- Contractors e.g. Maintenance, Grounds person
- Independent contractors who may transport children in minibuses or in taxis •
- An Ofsted Inspector
- Governors

The school must ensure that an effective sign in and visitor badge process is in place, which clearly identifies whether the visitor is DBS checked and therefore able to meet with children and students without supervision when on site.

Regardless of the frequency of visit, all individuals must be issued with an appropriate ID badge. The badge should identify the DSL.

Procedure:

All visitors must report to the School Office, give their name and purpose of their visit. They should then complete their details via the electronic log in system (InVentry) and be issued with a badge and lanyard. This badge to carry this statement: ‘Safeguarding is our highest priority. If you are concerned about a child’s safety, speak to the school office who will direct you to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.’

All visitors will be required to wear the ID badge and lanyard which must remain visible throughout their visit.

If a visitor has not produced a DBS check then this visitor must be accompanied while on site. The member of staff the visitor is meeting will be responsible for that visitor whilst on site and should escort them back to the School Office at the end of the meeting. If the visitor has presented with a current DBS check or is Professional School support - this could include Local Authority professionals, Supply teachers or school coaches, Governors etc - these visitors should be issued with a visitor badge to be worn alongside their professional ID badge and lanyard and can meet with children unsupervised. **All regular volunteers and visitors involved in teaching, training, or supervision are in regulated activity and must undergo full DBS and Barred List checks prior to working unsupervised with children**

Visitor Departure - On leaving the school, all visitors MUST leave via the School Office and log out via the electronic system.

Briefing sheet for temporary and supply staff- For supply staff and those on short contracts in Medina Primary School

While working in [Medina Primary](#) school, you have a duty of care towards the children and young people here. This means that at all times you should act in a way that is consistent with their safety and welfare. In addition, if at any time you have a concern about a child or young person, particularly if you think they may be at risk of abuse or neglect, it is your responsibility to share that concern with the school designated safeguarding lead (DSL), who is [Amanda McGarvey](#) (headteacher).

This is not an exhaustive list but you may have become concerned as a result of:

- Observing a physical injury, which you think may have been non-accidental.
- Observing something in the appearance of a child or young person which suggests they are not being sufficiently well cared for.
- Observing child behaviour that leads you to be concerned about a child or young person.
- A child or young person telling you that they have been subjected to some form of abuse
- Observing adult behaviour that leads you to be concerned about their suitability to work with children or young people.

In any of the circumstances listed here, you must write down what you saw or heard, date and sign your account, and give it to the DSL as soon as possible and no longer than 24 hours later. This may be the beginning of a legal process – it is important to understand that legal action against a perpetrator can be seriously damaged by any suggestion that the child has been led in any way.

If a child talks to you about abuse, you should follow these guidelines:

- Rather than directly questioning the child, just listen and be supportive
- Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events, but don't push the child to tell you more than they wish.
- Make it clear that you may need to pass on information to staff in other agencies who may be able to help – do not promise confidentiality. You are obliged to share any information relating to abuse or neglect.
- Write an account of the conversation immediately, as close to verbatim as possible. Put the date and timings on it, and mention anyone else who was present. Then sign it and give your record to the DSL who should follow due process, including contacting Children's Social Care if appropriate. (Paper copies of CPOMs reports are available in the staffroom if required)

The school has a policy on safeguarding children and young people which you can find, together with the local procedures to be followed by all staff, in the *staffroom*.

If your concern involves the DSL or a member of the senior staff, contact the

LADO. **Remember, if you have a concern, report it.**