

## POLICY DOCUMENT

### SAFEGUARDING

This is a whole-school policy and is applicable to Kirkham Grammar Senior School (KGS) and Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School (KGJS)

The reference to 'Head' throughout this document relates to the KGS Headmaster and the KGJS Headmistress.

<b>Policy number: 9</b>	<b>Originating date: 2001</b>	<b>Date last reviewed: September 2021</b>	<b>Next review: September 2022</b>
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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This policy will be reviewed at least annually unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review, in which case revisions will be made and distributed without delay. Research suggests that around 10 per cent of children will suffer some form of abuse, and disabled children are three times more likely to be abused. Due to their day-to-day contact with pupils, school staff are uniquely placed to observe changes in children's behaviour and the outward signs of abuse. Children may also turn to a trusted adult in school when they are in distress or at risk. It is vital that school staff are alert to the signs of abuse and understand the procedures for reporting their concerns. The school will act on identified concerns and provide early help to prevent concerns from escalating.

Kirkham Grammar School fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children from harm and to support and promote the welfare of all children who are pupils at the school. The school rejects the use or threat of corporal punishment by teachers or parents (as a punishment on their children for misbehaving in school). Threats to use corporal punishment may constitute an assault and the use of corporal punishment on children in schools would be deemed a criminal offence. This policy applies to all stakeholders; this includes pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers, placement students and visitors.

This policy will give clear direction to all stakeholders about expectations and legal and moral responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at the school.

Kirkham Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the physical, mental and emotional welfare of every pupil. The school implements a whole-school preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, ensuring that the wellbeing of pupils is at the forefront of all action taken. It is recognised that no single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right

help at the right time, **everyone** who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

This policy sets out a clear and consistent framework for delivering this promise, in line with safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance. It will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that members of the governing body, the Head, staff and all stakeholders understand their responsibilities under safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, are alert to the signs of child abuse, and know to refer concerns to the DSL. In addition, to ensure that staff are aware that ANYONE can make a referral to the **Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team 0300 1236720**.
- Teaching pupils how to keep safe and recognise behaviour that is unacceptable.
- Identifying and making provision for any pupil that has been subject to, or is at risk of, abuse, neglect, exploitation or radicalisation.
- Creating a culture of safer recruitment by adopting procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children
- Endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where pupils are respected and valued; where the voice of the pupil is listened to and is paramount
- Where it is believed that a pupil is at risk of or is suffering significant harm, the school will follow the procedures set out by our local Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements.  
[https://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html#ind\\_cases](https://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html#ind_cases)

## 1.2 DEFINITIONS

Whilst the terms "**children**" and "**child**" refer to anyone under the age of 18, the purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure **every pupil** at Kirkham Grammar School is safe and protected from harm. The Department for Education (DfE) 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2021), states safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

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

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as **peer on peer abuse** and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.

For the purposes of this policy, "**sexual violence**" refers to the following offences as defined under the Sexual Offences Act 2003:

- **Rape:** A person (A) commits an offence of rape if they intentionally penetrate the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with their penis, B does not consent to the penetration, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Assault by penetration:** A person (A) commits an offence if they intentionally penetrate the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of their body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Sexual assault:** A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if they intentionally touch another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- **Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent:** A person (A) commits an offence if they intentionally cause another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.

For the purposes of this policy, "**sexual harassment**" refers to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that occurs online or offline, inside or outside of school. Sexual harassment is likely to violate a pupil's dignity, make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and create a hostile, offensive, or sexualised environment. If left unchallenged, sexual harassment can create an atmosphere that normalises inappropriate behaviour and may lead to sexual violence.

**Sexual harassment can include, but is not limited to:**

- Sexual comments, such as sexual stories, lewd comments, sexual remarks about clothes and appearance, and sexualised name-calling.
- Sexual "jokes" and taunting.
- Physical behaviour, such as deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes, and displaying images of a sexual nature.
- Online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. This includes:
  - The consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos.
  - Sharing unwanted explicit content.
  - Upskirting.

- Sexualised online bullying.
- Unwanted sexual comments and messages, including on social media.
- Sexual exploitation, coercion, and threats.

**Upskirting** refers to the act, as identified the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, of taking a picture or video under another person's clothing, without their knowledge or consent, with the intention of viewing that person's genitals or buttocks, with or without clothing, to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. Upskirting is a criminal offence. Anyone, including pupils and staff, of any gender can be a victim of upskirting.

**Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos**, colloquially known as "**sexting**" and "**youth produced imagery**", is defined as the sharing between pupils of sexually explicit content, including indecent imagery. **Indecent imagery** is defined as an image which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Nude or semi-nude sexual posing
- A child touching themselves in a sexual way
- Any sexual activity involving a child
- Someone hurting a child sexually
- Sexual activity that involves animals

**Consent** is defined as having the freedom and capacity to choose to engage in sexual activity. Consent may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another and can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. A person only consents to a sexual activity if they agree by choice to that activity and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. Children under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity. The age of consent is 16.

### 1.3 COVID-19

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (KCSIE) remains in force throughout the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). However, Kirkham Grammar School recognises that further measures or adaptations to current policies and procedures may be required in response to the pandemic in 2021/22. Any such measures will be detailed and communicated through addendums to the policy, when necessary, and shared with all stakeholders. Kirkham Grammar School will continue to follow local and national guidance and adapt/amend this policy if required.

## 1.4 LAW & GUIDANCE

- This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to: Education Act 2002: Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Section 157 of the same act and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guides education establishments as to their role within inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This is **the government's statutory guidance for all organisations and agencies** who work with, or carry out work related to, children in the United Kingdom.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021: The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the statutory safeguarding and child protection guidance for schools and colleges in England, Keeping children safe in education. This guidance sets out what schools and colleges in England must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18.
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice (with Addendum April 2020)
- The Children Act 1989 & 2004
- The Prevent Duty – The Prevent duty is **the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** that sets out guidance for the LA and its partners to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- FGM as set out in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act"), as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015.

### Relevant Non-statutory guidance

- DfE (2015) 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
- DfE (2018) 'Information sharing'
- DfE (2017) 'Child sexual exploitation'
- DfE (2021) 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges'
- DfE (2021) 'Recruit teachers from overseas'

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- DfE (2020) 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'

This policy and the procedures contained within, should also be read in conjunction with other school policies related to Safeguarding the Welfare of Children; particularly the Anti-Bullying policy, recognising that peer-on-peer abuse is a safeguarding issue.

- Administration of Prescribed Medication
- Anti-Bullying
- Asthma
- Attendance
- Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions
- E-Safety (ICT Acceptable Use Policy Agreement Appendix A)
- Health and Safety
- ICT Acceptable Use
- Mobile Telephones and Smart Watches
- Mobile Telephones, Cameras and Devices (EYFS)
- Safer Recruitment
- Security, Access Control, Workplace Safety and Lone Working
- Self-Harm
- Special Educational Needs
- Staff Handbook (Staff Code of Conduct)
- Whistle Blowing

## 2. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff have a responsibility to:

- Consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the pupil with a child-centred approach.
- Contribute to, and maintain a high safeguarding ethos within the setting, with safeguarding pupils at the forefront of practice at all times.
- Ensure ALL pupils have opportunities to communicate and know that they are listened to.
- Contribute to providing a curriculum which will equip pupils with the skills to keep themselves safe and develop an attitude which will enable them to enter adulthood successfully and reach their full potential.
- Establish effective, supportive, and positive relationships with parents, carers, pupils and other professionals.
- Maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.
- Be proactive to provide a safe environment in which pupils can learn.
- Be prepared to identify pupils or families who may benefit from early help.

- Be aware of the school's individual procedures that support safeguarding, including all policies, internal reporting procedures, information and training provided.
- Be aware of the role and identity of the DSL and deputy DSLs and seek them for advice if required.
- Undertake safeguarding training, including online safety training, during induction and subsequently on a regular basis, including receiving bulletins, emails and briefings.
- Be aware of the local early help process and understand their role in it.
- Be aware of, and understand, the process for making referrals to Children's Social Care, understanding that anyone can make a referral.
- Understand how to make a referral to CSC and/or the police immediately, if at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a pupil.
- Be aware of and understand the procedure to follow in the event that a pupil confides they are being abused, exploited or neglected, in a timely manner.
- Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality when dealing with individual cases.
- Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, that they will be supported, and that they will be kept safe.
- Be aware of safeguarding issues that can put pupils at risk of harm.
- Be aware of behaviours linked to issues such as drug-taking, alcohol misuse, deliberately missing education, and sharing indecent images, and other signs that pupils may be at risk of harm.
- Be fully aware of the importance of mental health in relation to safeguarding and that all staff should also be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a pupil has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

**The Examinations Officer has a responsibility to:**

- Liaise with the DSL to ensure that external invigilators receive induction training (as detailed in Section 3).
- Ensure that this Safeguarding training is updated annually and any new versions of associated policies shared.
- Ensure that invigilation staff understand the protocols for 1:1 support/supervision (including summoning assistance, leaving the exam temporarily and escorting candidates to the toilet area).

**Teachers, including the Head, have a responsibility to:**

- Safeguard pupils' wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties, as outlined in the '**Teachers' Standards**'.

**The governing body has a duty to:**

- Take strategic leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure that the school complies with its duties under the above child protection and safeguarding legislation.
- Comply with its obligations under section 14B of the Children Act 2004 to supply the local safeguarding agencies with information to fulfil its functions.
- Ensure that staff working directly with pupils read and understand at least Part one of KCSIE.
- Ensure a named Governor takes leadership responsibility for safeguarding arrangements.
- Appoint a member of staff from the SLT to the role of DSL and one or more deputy DSLs to provide support, and ensure that they are trained to the same standard as the DSL and that the roles are explicit in their job description(s). Ensure the provision of appropriate support, funding, training, resources, and time to carry out their role.
- Facilitate and support a whole-school approach to safeguarding; this includes ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and ethos remains consistently high.
- Ensure systems are in place so that pupils can confidently report abuse, knowing that their concerns will be treated seriously, and they can safely express their views and give feedback; these systems will be well-promoted, easily understood, and easily accessible. Ensure that the voice of the pupil is heard and acted upon.
- Ensure effective and appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- Make sure that pupils are taught about safeguarding, including protection against dangers online (including when they are online at home), through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Adhere to statutory responsibilities by conducting pre-employment checks on staff who work with children.
- Ensure the school has clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems in pupils, including clear routes to escalate concerns and clear referral and accountability systems.
- Make sure that at least one person on any recruitment panel has undertaken safer

recruitment training.

- Ensure that all staff receive safeguarding and child protection training updates, eg emails, as required, but at least annually, including a thorough induction.
- Confirm that there are transparent procedures in place to handle allegations against staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors.
- Confirm that there are procedures in place to make a referral to the DBS and the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), where appropriate, if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns or would have been had they not resigned.
- Ensure that appropriate disciplinary procedures are in place, as well as policies pertaining to the behaviour of pupils and staff.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to peer-on-peer abuse.
- Ensure that the appropriate level of check is completed on Governors.
- Create a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure that pupils are safe online by ensuring that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place.
- Ensure that safeguarding is embedded within the curriculum.
- Ensure that all practice and procedures operate with the best interests of the pupil at the centre with a firm pupil centred approach.

**The DSL has a duty to:**

- Take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.
- Provide advice, support and expertise to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters.
- Take part in strategy discussions, inter-agency meetings and Child Protection Conferences and/or support other staff to do so.
- Contribute to the assessment of pupils, and/or support other staff to do so.
- Be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
- Arrange, alongside the school, adequate and appropriate cover for any activities outside

of school hours or terms.

- Refer cases:
  - To CSC where abuse and neglect are suspected, and support staff who make referrals CSC.
  - To the Channel programme where radicalisation concerns arise, and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme.
  - To the DBS where a person is dismissed or has left due to harm, or risk of harm, to a child.
  - To the police where a crime may have been committed, in line with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) guidance.
  - And to any other appropriate identified agency or partner.
- Act as a point of contact with the multi-agency partners.
- Ensure effective communication and information sharing (when appropriate) between Deputy DSL's/ Pastoral Team/ SLT/Governors & Head.
- Liaise with staff when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies so that children's needs are considered holistically.
- Signpost, 'Mental Health Support', where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health.
- Promote supportive engagement with parents in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.
- Work with relevant staff, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes for pupils, by understanding the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, knowing the safeguarding and child protection issues that pupils in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on their attendance, engagement and achievement at school. This includes:
  - Ensuring that the school knows which pupils have or had a social worker.
  - Understanding the academic progress and attainment of these pupils.
  - Maintaining a culture of high aspirations for these pupils.
  - Supporting teachers to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help these pupils reach their potential.

- Ensure that child protection files are kept updated and secure, monitoring the quality and accuracy of logs.
- Ensure that a pupil's child protection file is transferred as soon as possible, and within five days, when transferring to a new school, and consider any additional information that should be shared to support a pupil's journey.
- Ensure all stakeholders understand the Child Protection Policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and internal procedures to report any concerns are transparent and understood by all. Ensure this information is given in induction and at regular intervals/ training.
- Work with the governing board to ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually, and the procedures are updated and reviewed regularly.
- Ensure the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available publicly, ensure that parents are aware of schools' responsibilities regarding safeguarding and child protection.
- Undergo DSL training, and update this training at least every two years to remain compliant.
- Ensure opportunities for further training and opportunities for upskilling are taken.
- Encourage a culture of listening to pupils promoting the voice of the pupil.
- Recognise the importance of information sharing, including within school, with other schools and with the safeguarding partners and other agencies by understanding relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR.
- Undertake Prevent awareness training.
- Be provided with appropriate support and supervision in order to carry out the role safely and effectively.
- Liaise with the Local Authority Personal Advisors for any Care Leavers.

Kirkham Grammar School recognises that Deputy DSL's must be trained to same standard as the DSL.

## 2.1 PROCEDURES FOR RECORDING & REPORTING CONCERNS

*If a pupil wishes to make a disclosure/report*

Do:

- Stay calm and reassuring.
- Listen to and take what the pupil says seriously and uncritically, at the pupil's pace.
- Tell the pupil that s/he is right to tell someone.
- Arrange a place and a time where you can talk privately and uninterrupted as soon as possible.
- Explain that you will need to involve other people and why.
- Be supportive.
- Give realistic encouragement. You may prompt where necessary with where, what, when, etc.
- Allow the pupil to speak, and write up at the end.
- Let the pupil know that s/he is not to blame.
- Make a report on CPOMS of what is said by the pupil – unprompted and using the pupil's own words wherever possible. State who was present, time, date and place. If a written record is made this must be in ink and signed by the member of staff who took the disclosure. This must be copied in to CPOMS or attached as a document at the earliest opportunity.
- Send the report to the DSL immediately. If not possible, a verbal report should be given to the DSL to enable procedures to be followed in a timely manner.
- Talk to the DSL about your feelings and seek support for yourself.

*KCSIE emphasises that ANYONE can contact children's social care if they are concerned about a pupil and it is in the best interests of the pupil. Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team 0300 1236720.*

Do not:

- Promise confidentiality as you may share information with the DSL or CSC.
- Make promises or reassurances you cannot keep.
- Assume that someone else will take the necessary action.
- Investigate further, press for details or ask leading questions which may invalidate court proceedings.
- Speculate, accuse anybody or confront another person.
- Ask the pupil to repeat the details unnecessarily.
- React emotionally or offer opinions.
- Interrupt or stop a pupil during a disclosure or offer opinions about what is said.

- Underestimate your role as a trusted adult.
- Forget to record what is said.

#### Pupils with communication difficulties

While extra care may be needed to ensure that signs of abuse and neglect are interpreted correctly, suspicions should be reported in exactly the same manner as for other pupils. Opinion and interpretation will be crucial (be prepared to be asked about the basis of it and to possibly have its validity questioned if the matter goes to court).

#### Recording

CPOMS is used for recording concerns. **User Guide/Video Guide for the use of CPOMS is held on the Foundation Staff Drive.**

Records should:

- State who was present, time, date and place.
- Be recorded on CPOMS at the earliest opportunity. Any written statements must be scanned and uploaded to CPOMS using a secure scanner.
- Alert the DSL and DDSL on CPOMS.
- Use the pupil's words wherever possible.
- All concerns should be written in an objective and factual way avoiding subjective commentary or speculation. Use full First Names of all pupils involved and use the pupils' words where possible.

#### Notifying parents

The school will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a pupil with their parents/carers. This must be handled sensitively and the DSL will make contact with the parent/carer in the event of a concern, suspicion or disclosure.

However, if the school believes that notifying parents/carers could increase the risk to the pupil or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from MASH 01772 531643 or LCC School Safeguarding Advice 01772 531196.

### **TRAINING & INDUCTION**

Kirkham Grammar School recognises the importance of ongoing staff training and development to keep staff aware of emerging issues and keeping the ethos of safeguarding high. All staff have a role to play in safeguarding pupils and the school endeavours to ensure all staff are well informed and know what to do if they have any concerns. Staff members will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction, which will be updated on a regular basis and/or whenever there is a change in legislation.

The induction training will cover:

- The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- The Peer-on-Peer Abuse and procedures.
- The Staff Code of Conduct.
- Part one of 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE).
- The Behaviour, Rewards & Sanction Policy.
- The E-Safety Policy.
- The Attendance Policy, including the safeguarding response to pupils who go missing from education.
- Appropriate child protection and safeguarding training, including online safety training.
- Information about the role and identity of the DSL and deputy DSL(s).
- How to record concerns.

Following induction, Kirkham Grammar School recognises the need to ensure continual, effective training to staff and other stakeholders.

The school will ensure that:

- ALL staff and volunteers will receive Safeguarding Training (at least) annually.
- The DSLs provide ALL staff, volunteers and governors with regular safeguarding updates.
- ALL staff, volunteers and governors read and show an understanding of any updates that are provided.
- DSLs attend DSL training every 2 years and update their knowledge, skills and understanding of relevant safeguarding issues on a regular basis.
- The DSL undertakes Prevent awareness training.
- At least one member of staff and one governor attends Safer Recruitment Training. This will be renewed at least every 5 years.
- ALL staff, volunteers and governors undertake any additional specialised training on matters such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent, Peer on Peer abuse, Online Safety, FGM etc. as is deemed necessary by the SLT/DSL and which are particularly relevant to the context of Kirkham Grammar School.
- Any staff member discusses specific training requirements or gaps in knowledge or understanding with the DSLs.

- Staff receive opportunities to contribute towards and inform the safeguarding arrangements in the school.
- Detailed records are held of staff safeguarding training and ensure that no training becomes out of date.

*User Guide/Video Guide for the use of CPOMS is held on the Foundation Staff Drive.*

## **MULTI-AGENCY WORKING**

Kirkham Grammar School contributes to multi-agency working as part of its statutory duty. The school is aware of and will follow the local safeguarding arrangements. Further details on [www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk)

The school will be fully engaged, involved, and share information with local safeguarding arrangements. Once the school is named as a relevant agency by local safeguarding partners, it will follow its statutory duty to cooperate with the published arrangements in the same way as other relevant agencies.

The school will work with the Children & Family Well-being Team, CSC, the Police, Health services and other relevant partners and agencies for the benefit of families and pupils ensuring contribution to multi-agency plans to provide additional support.

Where a need for early help is identified, the school will allow access for CSC from the host LA and, where appropriate, a placing LA, for that LA to conduct (or consider whether to conduct) a section 17 or 47 assessment.

Kirkham Grammar School also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing CSE and CCE.

### **Information sharing**

The school recognises the importance of proactive information sharing between professionals and local agencies in order to effectively meet pupils' needs and identify any need for early help.

Considering the above, staff will be aware that whilst the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 place a duty on schools to process personal information fairly and lawfully, they also allow for information to be stored and shared for safeguarding purposes – data protection regulations do not act as a barrier to sharing information where failure to do so would result in the pupil being placed at risk of harm.

**Staff members will ensure that fear of sharing information does not stand in the way of their responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of pupils.** If staff members are in doubt about sharing information, they will speak to the DSL or deputy DSL(s).

## **EARLY HELP**

Early help means providing support as soon as the need emerges, at any point in a child's life.

Kirkham Grammar School recognises that any staff professional can provide early help. Any pupil or family may benefit from early help, but staff must be alert to the potential need specifically for early help for pupils who:

- Are disabled, have certain health conditions, or have specific additional needs
- Have SEND
- Have mental health needs
- Are young carers
- Show signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines
- Are frequently missing or going missing from care or from home
- Are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, or sexual or criminal exploitation
- Are at risk of being radicalised
- Have family members in prison, or are affected by parental offending
- Are in a family circumstance presenting challenges for them, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health problems, or domestic abuse
- Are misusing drugs or alcohol
- Have returned home to their family from care
- Are at risk of Honour Based Abuse (HBA), such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or forced marriage
- Are privately fostered
- Are persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day
- Show any other early signs of abuse, neglect any other identified reason not listed above that requires extra support or intervention to improve outcomes for families and children

The DSL will take the lead where early help is appropriate and consent has been gained. This

includes liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. The local early help process will be followed as required to help provide the right, effective support at the right time.

Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner. Any such cases will be kept under constant review assessing the impact of the support.

**The school will therefore ensure that:**

- All staff and volunteers can identify the risk factors that indicate a family or pupil may benefit from Early Help and can follow school procedures to share this with the DSL
- DSLs or surgery managers will undertake a Family Early Help Assessment, when appropriate, to identify what Early Help is required
- DSLs will signpost and refer to appropriate support agencies
- DSLs will lead on TAF meetings where it is appropriate for them to do so
- DSLs will follow the local safeguarding processes and refer to Children's Social Care where Early Help has not been successful in reducing risk and meeting unmet needs using **Lancashire Continuum of Need and Thresholds Guidance**

**ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

**Abuse** is defined as a form of maltreatment of a child which involves inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others, eg via the internet. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by one or multiple adults or other children.

**Physical abuse** is defined as a form of abuse which may involve actions such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse can also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. Staff are made aware of Female Genital Mutilation, a form of Physical abuse.

**Emotional abuse** is defined as the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. This may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child the opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children, such as interactions that are beyond their developmental capability, overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. **It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.** It may involve serious bullying, including cyberbullying, causing the child to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, but it may

also occur alone.

**Sexual abuse** is defined as abuse that involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, and regardless of whether the child is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration, or non-penetrative acts, such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. It may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can be perpetrated by people of any gender and age.

**Neglect** is defined as the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of a child's health or development. This may involve a parent or carer failing to provide a child with adequate food, clothing or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); failing to protect a child from physical or emotional harm or danger; failing to ensure adequate supervision (including through the use of inappropriate caregivers); or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

All staff must:

- Be aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect, remain vigilant and always raise concerns with the DSL. All staff, especially the DSL and deputy DSL(s), will be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with contextual factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside of these environments; this includes being aware that pupils can be at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families (extra-familial harms.)
- Be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues, including online abuse, cyberbullying, radicalisation and the sharing of indecent images.
- Understand that pupils who perpetrate abuse or display harmful behaviour should be treated as victims first and foremost and supported in the same way a victim of abuse would be supported. Risk Assessments should be undertaken where a pupil's behaviour poses a risk to others, themselves or the environment.
- Understand that there are specific and emerging ways in which pupils can be abused and are aware of these specific issues, reporting any concerns, in the appropriate manner to the DSL.

Specific issues include (but are not limited to) those listed in points 6.1 to 6.14 of this policy.

#### **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, **domestic abuse** is defined as abusive behaviour of a person towards another person where both are aged 16 or over and are personally connected. **Abusive behaviour** includes physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening

behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, or another form of abuse.

The school will recognise the serious, long lasting emotional impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse. All staff must be aware of the signs of domestic abuse and follow the appropriate safeguarding procedures where concerns arise.

Kirkham Grammar School has commitment to Operation Encompass and informing all stakeholders of the initiative. The lead person for Operation Encompass is Nicki Walter (Senior School) and Stuart Lewis (KGJS). [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org)

### **CHILDREN MISSING FROM EDUCATION**

Staff will be aware that a child going missing from school is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and, as such, these children are increasingly at risk of being victims of harm, sexual and criminal exploitation, forced marriage, female genital mutilation or radicalisation. Staff will monitor pupils that go missing from the school, particularly on repeat occasions, and report them to the DSL following normal safeguarding procedures, in accordance with the Attendance Policy. The school will inform the LA of any pupil who fails to attend regularly or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more.

Where reasonably possible schools and colleges **will hold more than one emergency contact number for their pupils and students.**

### **CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE)**

**Child criminal exploitation** is defined as a form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in criminal activity, for any of the following reasons:

- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
- For the financial advantage or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator
- Through violence or the threat of violence (this could be online or through technology)

Specific forms of CCE can include:

- Being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines.
- Working in cannabis factories.
- Shoplifting or pickpocketing.

- Committing vehicle crime.
- Committing, or threatening to commit, serious violence to others.

The school will recognise that pupils involved in CCE are victims themselves, regardless of whether they have committed crimes, and even if the criminal activity appears consensual. The school will also recognise that pupils of **any gender** are at risk of CCE.

School staff will be aware of the indicators that a pupil is the victim of CCE, including:

- Associating with other children involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs or alcohol
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- Regularly missing school or education
- Appearing with unexplained gifts, money or new possessions.

Criminal exploitation of children can include **County Lines**. This is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or criminal networks/gangs, groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money into one or more areas. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked or the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered in addition to normal safeguarding procedures.

As well as the general indicators for CCE, school staff will be aware of the specific indicators that a pupil may be involved in county lines, including:

- Going missing and subsequently being found in areas away from their home
- Having been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence, eg knife crime
- Receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, collecting money
- Being found in accommodation they have no connection
- Owing a 'debt bond' to their exploiters
- Having their bank account used to facilitate drug dealing

#### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)**

**Child sexual exploitation** is defined as a form of sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity, for any of the following reasons:

- In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
- For the financial advantage, increased status or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator
- Through violence or the threat of violence, this could be online or through technology.

Kirkham Grammar School will recognise that CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence, and may happen without the pupil's immediate knowledge, eg through others sharing videos or images of them on social media. The school 'recognises that CSE can affect any pupil who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities, even if the activity appears consensual; this includes pupils aged 16 and above who can legally consent to sexual activity. The school also recognises that pupils may not realise they are being exploited and they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

School staff must be aware of the key indicators that a pupil is the victim of CSE, including:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts, money or new possessions.
- Associating with other children involved in exploitation.
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing.
- Misusing drugs or alcohol.
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late.
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections.
- Displaying sexual behaviours beyond expected sexual development.
- Becoming pregnant.

Where CSE, or the risk of it, is suspected, staff must discuss the case with the DSL. If after discussion a concern remains, local safeguarding procedures will be triggered.

## **MODERN SLAVERY**

**Modern slavery** encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude, and forced or

compulsory labour. This can include CCE, CSE, and other forms of exploitation.

All staff must be aware of and alert to the signs that a pupil may be the victim of modern slavery. Staff must also be aware of the support available to victims of modern slavery and how to refer them to the National Referral Mechanism. (From The Modern Slavery Act 2015, Section 52) The public authority (including schools) bears this obligation where it has 'reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking'.

### **FGM**

**FGM** is defined as all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

All staff must be alert to the possibility of a pupil being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. If staff are worried about someone who is at risk of FGM or who has been a victim of FGM, they are required to share this information with CSC and/or the police. The school's procedures relating to managing cases of FGM and protecting pupils will reflect multi-agency working arrangements.

As outlined in Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015), teachers are **legally required** to report to the police any discovery, whether through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence, of FGM on a pupil under the age of 18. Teachers failing to report such cases may face disciplinary action. Teachers will not examine pupils, and so it is rare that they will see any visual evidence, but they must personally report to the police where an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve CSC as appropriate. **NB:** This does not apply to any suspected or at-risk cases, nor if the individual is over the age of 18. In such cases, local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

All staff must be aware of the indicators that pupils may be at risk of FGM. While some individual indicators they may not indicate risk, the presence of two or more indicators could signal a risk to the pupil. It is important to note that the pupil may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so staff must be sensitive when broaching the subject.

Indicators that a pupil may be at heightened risk of undergoing FGM include:

- The socio-economic position of the family and their level of integration into UK society
- The pupil coming from a community known to adopt FGM

- Any girl with a mother or sister who has been subjected to FGM
- Any girl withdrawn from PSHE
- Travel abroad or a long holiday with relatives to a country known to practise FGM.

FGM is included in the definition of **honour-based abuse (HBA)** which involves crimes that have been committed to defend the honour of the family and/or community. All forms of HBA are forms of abuse and will be treated and escalated as such. Staff must be alert to the signs of HBA, including concerns that a pupil is at risk of HBA, or has already suffered from HBA, and will consult with the DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures if concerns arise.

### **FORCED MARRIAGE**

**Forced marriage** is defined as a marriage that is entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties, and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into the marriage. Threats can be physical, emotional, or psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent, eg due to some forms of SEND. Forced marriage is a crime in the UK and a form of HBA.

Staff who have any concerns regarding a pupil who may have undergone, is currently undergoing, or is at risk of forced marriage must speak to the DSL and local safeguarding procedures will be followed – this could include referral to CSC, the police or the Forced Marriage Unit. The Forced Marriage Unit may be contacted for advice at [fm@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fco.gov.uk) .

### **EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION**

**Extremism** refers to the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Extremism also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

**Terrorism** refers to an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people, serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat of these actions must be designed to influence the government or intimidate the public, and be made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation is part of the school's wider safeguarding duties. The school will actively assess the risk of pupils being radicalised and drawn into extremism and/or terrorism. Staff must be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Staff must use their professional judgement to

identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation and act appropriately, which may include contacting the DSL or making a Prevent referral. The school will work with local safeguarding arrangements as appropriate.

The school will ensure that they engage with parents and families, as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. In doing so, the school will assist and advise family members who raise concerns and provide information for support mechanisms. Any concerns over radicalisation will be discussed with the pupil's parents, unless the school has reason to believe that the pupil would be placed at risk as a result.

The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training to be able to provide advice and support to other staff on how to protect pupils against the risk of radicalisation. Staff will complete regular online training sessions to ensure they are aware of the risk indicators and their duties regarding preventing radicalisation. The E-Safety Policy will ensure the safety of pupils by ensuring they cannot access terrorist and extremist material when using the internet and that suitable filtering software is in place.

DSLs understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel Panel and are aware of how to do so.

Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, all schools are subject to a duty to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism", known as **the Prevent duty**, forming part of the school's wider safeguarding obligations.

The school's procedures for carrying out the Prevent duty, including how it will engage and implement the Channel programme, are outlined in the Prevent Duty Policy.

Kirkham Grammar School will ensure that ALL Staff, Governors and volunteers are informed and have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism', known as the 'Prevent Duty.'

<b>Prevent Lead</b>	<b>Mr M P Melling</b>
<b>Prevent Governor Lead</b>	<b>Mr K Berry</b>

## **PRIVATE FOSTERING**

Where a period of UK homestay lasts 28 days or more for a child aged under 16, or under 18 for a child with SEND, (with someone who is not a close relative), this may amount to private fostering under the Children Act 1989. Where the school becomes aware of a pupil being privately fostered, they will notify the LA as soon as possible to allow the LA to conduct any necessary checks.

## **6.10 PUPILS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRISON**

Pupils with a family member in prison will be offered pastoral support as necessary. They will receive a copy of '[Are you a young person with a family member in prison?](#)' from Action for Prisoners' Families where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

### **6.11 PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE INCLUDING SEXUALISED ABUSE**

**Peer-on-peer abuse** is defined as abuse between children.

Kirkham Grammar School has a **zero-tolerance approach to abuse**, including peer-on-peer abuse.

Kirkham Grammar School will refer to specific guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education Part five: Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and Lancashire Procedures. [5.31 Peer Abuse \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

All staff must be aware that peer-on-peer abuse can occur between pupils of any age and gender, both inside and outside of school, as well as online. All staff must be aware of the indicators of peer-on-peer abuse, how to identify it, and how to respond to reports. All staff must also recognise that even if no cases have been reported, this is not an indicator that peer-on-peer abuse is not occurring. All staff must speak to the DSL if they have any concerns about peer-on-peer abuse.

All staff must understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between peers, and will not tolerate abuse as "banter" or "part of growing up".

Peer-on-peer abuse can be manifested in many different ways, including:

- Bullying, including cyberbullying and prejudice-based or discriminatory bullying.
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers.
- Physical abuse – this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse.
- Sexual violence – this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence.
- Sexual harassment, including online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent.
- The consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos.
- Upskirting.

- Initiation and hazing-type violence and rituals, which can include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group, and may also include an online element.

All staff must be clear as to the school's policy and procedures regarding peer-on-peer abuse and the role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

All staff are made aware of the heightened vulnerability of pupils with SEND, who evidence suggests are more likely to be abused than their peers. Staff must not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the pupil's SEND and must always explore indicators further.

All staff are made aware of the heightened vulnerability of LGBTQ+ pupils, who evidence suggests are also more likely to be targeted by their peers. In some cases, pupils who are perceived to be LGBTQ+, regardless of whether they are LGBTQ+, can be just as vulnerable to abuse as LGBTQ+ pupils. The school's response to sexual violence and sexual harassment between pupils of the same sex will be equally as robust as it is for incidents between pupils of the opposite sex.

Pupils are made aware of how to raise concerns or make a report and how any reports will be handled. This includes the process for reporting concerns about friends or peers. Pupils are also reassured that they will be taken seriously, be supported, and kept safe.

The school's procedures for managing allegations of peer-on-peer abuse are outlined in the School Behaviour, Rewards & Sanctions Policy. Staff must follow these procedures, as well as the procedures outlined in the school's Anti-Bullying Policy where relevant.

Kirkham Grammar School and DSL will consider:

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed
- the nature of the alleged incident
- the ages of the pupils involved
- the development stages of the pupils involved
- any power imbalance between the pupils
- is the incident a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse
- are there ongoing risks to the victim, other pupils, or school staff
- contextual safeguarding issues.

**Following a report of sexual violence, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) will make an immediate risk and needs assessment, considering:**

- the victim

- the alleged perpetrator
- all other pupils (and if appropriate adult pupils and staff).
- Risk assessments will be recorded and kept under review as a minimum termly.

## **6.12 SERIOUS VIOLENCE**

Through training, all staff will be made aware of the indicators which may signal a pupil is at risk from, or is involved with, serious violent crime. These indicators include, but are not limited to:

- Increased absence from school.
- A change in friendships.
- Relationships with older individuals or groups.
- A significant decline in academic performance.
- Signs of self-harm.
- A significant change in wellbeing.
- Signs of assault.
- Unexplained injuries.
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions.

Staff will be made aware of some of the most significant risk factors that could increase a pupil's vulnerability to becoming involved in serious violence. These risk factors include, but are not limited to:

- Being male.
- Having been frequently absent from school.
- Having been permanently excluded from school.
- Having experienced child maltreatment or trauma.
- Having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

Staff members who suspect a pupil may be vulnerable to, or involved in, serious violent crime must immediately report their concerns to the DSL.

### **6.13 ONLINE SAFETY AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Kirkham Grammar School will adhere to the E-Safety Policy at all times and is committed to keeping children safe online.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, all pupils are made aware of online risks and taught how to stay safe online.

The school ensures that suitable filtering systems are in place on ICT equipment to prevent pupils accessing inappropriate material. This system is monitored and reviewed with any inappropriate behaviours or searches being followed up appropriately. Any member of staff employed by the school who comes across an e-safety issue should not investigate the matter any further but immediately report it to the Network Manager, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team as appropriate and if necessary impound the equipment.

Further information regarding the school's approach to online safety can be found in the E-Safety Policy.

#### Personal electronic devices:

The use of personal electronic devices, including mobile phones and cameras, by staff and pupils is closely monitored by the school, in accordance with the Staff Code of Conduct/ Mobile Telephone & Smart Watches Policy and Mobile Phones, Cameras and Devices Policy (EYFS).

Where photographs and videos will involve pupils who are CLA, adopted pupils, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the Head will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved. The DSL will, in known cases of pupils who are CLA or who have been adopted, liaise with the pupils' social workers, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupils.

Staff must report any concerns about pupils' or other staff members' use of personal electronic devices to the DSL, following the appropriate procedures. Kirkham Grammar School is committed to keeping pupils safe by ensuring that electronic devices such as cameras, phones and tablets are used in an appropriate manner.

School will therefore ensure that:

- parental consent is obtained to take and use photographs and/or videos of pupils, for use in school, to market the school or to share on social media / internet.
- staff, visitors, volunteers and pupils do not use their own mobile phones or devices to take or record any images of pupils.

#### Upskirting:

Under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019, it is an offence to operate equipment for the purpose of upskirting. "**Operating equipment**" includes enabling, or securing, activation by another person without that person's knowledge, eg a motion-activated camera.

Upskirting will not be tolerated by the school. Any incidents of upskirting must be reported to the DSL, who will then decide on the next steps to take, which may include police involvement.

#### **6.14 SEXTING AND THE SHARING OF INDECENT IMAGES**

Sexting is defined as the production and/or sharing of sexual photos and videos of and by young people who are under the age of 18. (UKCCIS, 2016), It includes nude or nearly nude images and/or sexual acts. It is also referred to as 'youth produced sexual imagery'. 'Sexting' does not include the sharing of sexual photos and videos of under-18 year olds with or by adults. This is a form of child sexual abuse and must be referred to the police.

The school will ensure that staff are aware to treat the sharing of indecent images, including through sexting, as a safeguarding concern.

Staff will receive appropriate training regarding child sexual development so that they understand the difference between sexual behaviour that is considered normal and expected for the age of the pupil, and sexual behaviour that is inappropriate and harmful. Staff will receive appropriate training around how to deal with instances of sexting in the school community, including understanding motivations, assessing risks posed to pupils depicted in the images, and how and when to report instances of sexting.

Staff must be aware that creating, possessing, and distributing indecent imagery of children is a criminal offence, regardless of whether the imagery is created, possessed, and distributed by the individual depicted; however, staff will ensure that pupils are not unnecessarily criminalised.

Where a member of staff becomes aware of an incidence of sexting that involves indecent images of a pupil, they must refer this to the DSL as soon as possible. Where a pupil confides in a staff member about the circulation of indecent imagery, depicting them or someone else, the staff member must:

- Refrain from viewing, copy, printing, sharing, storing or saving the imagery.
- Tell the DSL immediately if they accidentally view an indecent image and seek support.
- Explain to the pupil that the incident will need to be reported.
- Respond positively to the pupil without blaming or shaming anyone involved, and reassuring them that they can receive support from the DSL.

- Report the incident to the DSL.

The DSL will attempt to understand what the image contains **without viewing it** and the context surrounding its creation and distribution – they will categorise the incident into one of two categories:

- **Aggravated:** incidents which involve additional or abusive elements beyond the creation and distribution of indecent images of pupils, including where there is an adult involved, where there is an intent to harm the pupil depicted, or where the images are used recklessly.
- **Experimental:** incidents involving the creation and distribution of indecent images of pupils where there is no adult involvement or apparent intent to cause harm or embarrassment to the pupil.

Where it is necessary to view the imagery, eg if this is the only way to make a decision about whether to inform other agencies, the DSL should:

- Discuss this decision with the Head or member of the SLT.
- Ensure the image is, where possible, viewed by someone of the same sex as the individual depicted.
- Ensure viewing takes place on school premises and with another member of staff present in the room – this staff member does not need to view the imagery.
- Record how and why the decision was made to view the imagery.

Where the incident is categorised as 'aggravated', the situation will be managed in line with the school's response to Peer-on-Peer Abuse. Where the incident is categorised as 'experimental', the pupils involved are supported to understand the implications of sharing indecent imagery and to move forward from the incident. Where there is reason to believe that indecent imagery being circulated will cause harm to a pupil, the DSL escalates the incident to CSC. Where indecent imagery of a pupil has been shared publicly, the DSL will work with the pupil to report imagery to sites on which it has been shared and will reassure them of the support available.

## **CONTEXT OF SAFEGUARDING INCIDENTS**

Safeguarding incidents can occur outside of school and can be associated with outside factors. All staff, particularly the DSL and deputy DSL(s), must always consider the context of safeguarding incidents. Assessment of pupils' behaviour will consider whether there are wider environmental factors that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. The school will provide as much contextual information as possible when making referrals to CSC or external agencies.

## **Pupils with SEND**

When managing safeguarding in relation to pupils with SEND, staff must be aware of the following:

- Pupils with SEND are nearly 4 times more likely to be a victim of abuse
- Certain indicators of abuse, such as behaviour, mood and injury, may relate to the pupil's disability without further exploration; however, it should never be assumed that a pupil's indicators relate only to their disability
- Pupils with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by issues such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
- Communication barriers may exist, as well as difficulties in overcoming these barriers

When reporting concerns or making referrals for pupils with SEND, the above factors will always be taken into consideration. When managing a safeguarding issue relating to a pupil with SEND, the DSL will liaise with the school's Learning Support Co-ordinator, as well as the pupil's parents where appropriate, to ensure that the pupil's needs are met effectively.

## **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS**

Co-curricular activities and clubs hosted by external bodies, eg charities or companies, will work in collaboration with the school to effectively safeguard pupils and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements.

Staff and volunteers running co-curricular activities and clubs are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and promote the welfare of pupils. Paid and volunteer staff understand how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to CSC or the police, if necessary.

## **MANAGING REFERRALS**

All staff members, in particular the DSL, must be aware of the LA's arrangements in place for managing referrals. The DSL will provide staff members with clarity and support where needed. When making a referral to CSC or other external agencies, information will be shared in line with confidentiality requirements and will only be shared where necessary to do so.

The DSL will work alongside external agencies, maintaining continuous liaison, including multi-agency liaison where appropriate, in order to ensure the wellbeing of the pupils involved. The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the school does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.

Where a pupil has been harmed or is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, the referrer will be notified of the action that will be taken within one working day of a referral being made. Where this information is not forthcoming, the referrer must contact the assigned social worker for more information.

The school will not wait for the start or outcome of an investigation before protecting the victim and other pupils: this applies to criminal investigations as well as those made by CSC. Where CSC decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate, the school will consider referring the incident again if it is believed that the pupil is at risk of harm. Where CSC decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate and the school agrees with this decision, the school will consider the use of other support mechanisms, such as early help and pastoral support.

At all stages of the reporting and referral process, the pupil will be informed of the decisions made, actions taken and reasons for doing so. Discussions of concerns with parents will only take place where this would not put the pupil or others at potential risk of harm. The school will work closely with parents to ensure that the pupil, as well as their family, understands the arrangements in place, such as in-school interventions, is effectively supported, and knows where they can access additional support.

#### **CONCERNS ABOUT STAFF AND SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES**

If a staff member has concerns about another member of staff (including supply staff and volunteers), it must be raised with the Head. If the concern is with regards to the Head, it must be referred to the Chair of Governors.

Any concerns regarding the safeguarding practices at the school must be raised with the SLT, and the necessary whistleblowing procedures will be followed, as outlined in the Whistleblowing Policy. If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the SLT, they should access other whistleblowing channels such as the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline (0800 028 0285).

#### **10.1 ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST STAFF**

There are clear policies in line with those from the CSAP (Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership) for dealing with allegations against people who work with children.

All allegations against staff, supply staff, volunteers and contractors will be managed in line with the school's Whistleblowing Policy – a copy of which will be provided to, and understood by, all staff. The school will ensure all allegations against staff, including those who are not employees of the school, are dealt with appropriately and that the school liaises with the relevant parties.

When managing allegations against staff, the school will recognise the distinction between allegations that meet the harms threshold and allegations that do not, also known as "low-level concerns". Allegations that meet the harms threshold include instances where staff have:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.
- Committed or possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved, or may have behaved, in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

All staff at Kirkham Grammar School are made aware of these procedures and of the following expectations and protocol:

- To refer allegations or concerns around staff (including supply staff) conduct to the Head.
- To refer allegations or concerns around the Head to the Chair of Governors.
- The Head and/or Chair of Governors will discuss the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- CSAP procedures for dealing with allegations against staff will be followed [http://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\\_allegations.html](http://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_allegations.html)
- To remember that the welfare of the child is paramount and that they have a duty to inform the Head if any adult's conduct gives cause for concern.
- All low-level concerns surrounding staff or any adult in a position of trust should be reported to the Head.
- To be aware of the school's Whistle Blowing Policy which enables staff to raise concerns or allegations in confidence and for a sensitive enquiry to take place.
- To be familiar with the *Guidance for Safer Working Practice* and staff Code of Conduct and Handbook and therefore aware of the professional expectations regarding their own behaviour and conduct.

## **SAFER RECRUITMENT**

The Safer Recruitment Policy should be read in conjunction with this policy. Kirkham Grammar School is committed to keeping pupils safe by ensuring that adults who work or volunteer in school are safe to do so.

An enhanced DBS check with barred list information will be undertaken for all staff members engaged in regulated activity. A person will be considered to be in 'regulated activity' if, as a result of their work, they:

- Are responsible on a daily basis for teaching, training, instructing or the care or

supervision of children.

- Regularly work in the school at times when children are on the premises.
- Regularly come into contact with children under 18 years of age.

The DfE's guidance will be consulted when determining whether a position fits the child workforce criteria.

The HR Manager will conduct the appropriate pre-employment checks for all prospective employees, including internal candidates and candidates who have lived or worked outside the UK.

Kirkham Grammar School will ensure that:

- The appropriate DBS and suitability checks will be carried out for all governors, volunteers, and contractors.
- The original DBS certificate is seen for all appointees to the school, even where the on-line DBS system indicates that the check is clear.
- There are sufficient staff/Governors who have undertaken appropriate Safer Recruitment training in the last 5 years to enable at least one person on every recruitment panel to be appropriately trained and there are at least 2 people on each selection panel.
- Covering (umbrella) letters will be obtained from agencies and other employers that provide staff to work in school to confirm that appropriate checks have been undertaken.
- Individual identity checks will be undertaken on those staff detailed above to ensure they are employees of the named agency/employer.
- Adults who are involved in the management or provision of child care of children in Early Years, or in out of school provision for children up to 8 years old, will make a declaration that they are not disqualified under the Child Care Act 2006 (it is good practice to ensure that this declaration is renewed annually for those staff working in a relevant setting). This form will be retained and stored securely.
- Advice regarding aspects of Safer Recruitment is sought from Weightmans as/when required.

#### Referral to the DBS

The school will refer to the DBS/ Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) anyone who has harmed a child or poses a risk of harm to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member

of staff has committed an offence and has been removed from working in regulated activity.

### **11.1 SINGLE CENTRAL RECORD (SCR)**

The school keeps a SCR which records all staff, including agency and third-party supply staff (for longer placements), and teacher trainees on salaried routes, who work at the school.

All members of the Governing Body are also recorded on the SCR.

The following information is recorded on the SCR:

An identity check

A barred list check

An enhanced DBS check

A prohibition from teaching check or prohibition from profession check

A check of professional qualifications, where required

A check to determine the individual's right to work in the UK

Additional checks for those who have lived or worked outside of the UK

A section 128 check is completed for those in management positions (SLT, HOD's & Governors)

Any other information deemed relevant.

If any checks have been conducted for volunteers or Governors, these may also be recorded on the SCR. If risk assessments are conducted to assess whether a volunteer should be subject to an enhanced DBS check, the risk assessment will be recorded.

The details of an individual will be removed from the SCR once they no longer work at the school.

## 7. STAFF TRAINING RECORDS

### TRAINING FOR DESIGNATED STAFF IN SCHOOL

Name of staff member / Governor	Date when last attended child protection training	Provided by whom, eg LCC, Governor Services
Mrs N Walter	March 2021	LCC
Mrs A Wadson	March 2021	LCC
Mrs S R Anyon	March 2021	LCC
Mrs H Shuttleworth	October 2021	LCC
Mrs K Aldeen	October 2021	LCC
Mr S Lewis	October 2021	LCC
Mr A E Trenhaile	January 2019	LCC
Mrs J Dinsley	March 2021	LCC
		Designated Safeguarding Leads should refresh their training every two years

### WHOLE-SCHOOL CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Who attended, eg all teaching and welfare / support staff, Governors, volunteers	(to be updated on a 3 yearly basis)	Training delivered
All Staff	09/2021(or upon appointment)	Vicky Wallace –School Safeguarding Officer, LCC. KCSIE 2021 / Safeguarding including Peer on Peer
	01/2020	Online Safeguarding Children & Prevent –The Key
	09/2019	P Threlfall - Safeguarding and Training Consultancy KCSIE 2020 / Safeguarding
		Nicki Walter /Helen Shuttleworth KCSIE 2019 updates and safer working practice

#### STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN SAFER RECRUITMENT

<b>Name of staff member / Governor</b>	<b>Date attended/undertaken training</b>	<b>Provided by whom</b>
Mr D H Berry	September 2015	LCC
Mrs D C Parkinson	October 2009	NCSL
Mrs H Shuttleworth	July 2015	NSPCC

#### STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN THE 'PREVENT' DUTY

<b>Name of staff member / Governor</b>	<b>Date attended/undertaken training</b>	<b>Provided by whom</b>
Mr M P Melling	October 2015	Cosain Consulting

## 8. DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

### Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

Deputy Head Senior School	-	Mrs Nicki Walter Tel No: (Office)	01772 684264
Deputy Head Senior School	-	Mrs Helen Shuttleworth Tel No: (Office) (Mobile)	01772 684264 07968 022857
Deputy Head Pastoral Junior School	-	Mr Stuart Lewis Tel No: (office)	01772 673222

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Houseparent (Academic)	-	Mr Aled Trenhaile Tel No: (Office) (Mobile)	01772 688113 07850 526795
Pastoral Support (Attendance) - Senior School	-	Mrs Anna Wadeson Tel No: (Office)	01772 684264
House Parent (Pastoral Support) -	-	Mrs Joanne Dinsley Tel No: (Office)	01772 688115
Deputy Head Academic Junior School	-	Mrs Kate Aldeen Tel No: (Office)	01772 673222
Pre-School Manager	-	Mrs Sharon Anyon Tel No: (Office)	01772 673222

Others with responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are robust within the school are:

The Headmaster, Mr D H Berry  
Governing Body Child Protection and Safeguarding Representative, Mr K Berry

Lancashire County Council Safeguarding Advice (Early Years):

- Catherine Isherwood  
Tel No: 01772 531555

Support and advice about extremism:

- Local Police Tel No: 101  
- DfE helpline Tel No: 020 7340 7264  
- [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

Child Sexual Exploitation:

- *Operation Awaken* (Blackpool, Fylde, Lancaster, Morecambe and Wyre): [01253 477 261](tel:01253477261)

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- *Operation Engage* (Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Pendle and Rossendale): 01254 353 525
- *Operation Deter* (Preston, Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancs): 01772 209 122

Lancashire Prevent Team:

- Tel No: 01254 585260

LCC School Safeguarding Officers Victoria Wallace & Heather Fowler	01772 531196 <a href="mailto:school.safeguarding@lancashire.gov.uk">school.safeguarding@lancashire.gov.uk</a>
LCC MASH Education Officers Matt Chipchase & Jennifer Ashton	Jennifer Ashton 01772 531643 <a href="mailto:jennifer.ashton@lancashire.gov.uk">jennifer.ashton@lancashire.gov.uk</a> Matt Chipchase 01254 220989 <a href="mailto:matt.chipchase@lancashire.gov.uk">matt.chipchase@lancashire.gov.uk</a>
LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer Tim Booth, Donna Green & Shane Penn	01772 536694 <a href="mailto:LADO.admin@lancashire.gov.uk">LADO.admin@lancashire.gov.uk</a>
MASH – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	0300 123 6720 0300 123 6722 between 5.00 pm - 8.00 am