

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy 2023-2024

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Lisa Walters
Deputy DSL	Lisa Edwards
Safeguarding Link Governor	Claire Latham
Date last reviewed	September 2023
Reviewed by	Lisa Edwards (Headteacher)
Reviewed by	Dr. Ian Birnbaum (Chair of Governors)
Date of next review	September 2024

Table of Contents

1	Context & Rationale	21	Children with a family member in prison
2	Definitions	22	Child-on-child abuse including sexualised abuse
3	Law & Guidance	23	Serious violence
4	Roles & Responsibilities	24	Online safety
5	Training & Induction	25	Sharing nude & semi-nude images
6	Multi-agency Working	26	Context of safeguarding incidents
7	Early Help	27	Pupils potentially at greater risk of harm
8	Abuse & Neglect	28	Extra-curricular clubs
9	Domestic Abuse	29	Alternative provision
10	Homelessness	30	Managing referrals
11	Children Absent from School	31	Concerns about staff & safeguarding practices
12	Children Attending an Approved Educational Activity	32	Allegations of abuse against staff
13	Child Criminal Exploitation	33	Safer Recruitment
14	Child Sexual Exploitation	34	Review
15	Concealed, Denied Pregnancy	35	Key Contacts, Roles and Training
16	Modern Slavery		
17	Female Genital Mutilation		
18	Forced Marriage		
19	Extremism & Radicalisation		
20	Private Fostering		

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

Key Areas

KEY AREA	
1. Context & Rationale	Maharishi School is a through-school (aged 4-16) situated on a split site with the primary phase located in Lathom, Ormskirk, and the secondary phase situated approximately a mile away in Ashurst, Skelmersdale. Maharishi School serves a wide demographic area with a relatively low number of 'disadvantaged' pupils: 17%
	Maharishi School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the physical, mental and emotional welfare of every pupil. We implement a whole-school preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, ensuring that the wellbeing of our pupils is at the forefront of all action taken.
	We recognise that no single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. We have a team of trained DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads) across both phases who work together to ensure that our children and families are able to receive the right help at the right time. We do this by ensuring that everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
	The purpose of this safeguarding & child protection policy is to ensure every child who is a registered pupil at Maharishi School is safe and protected from harm. This policy will give clear direction to all stakeholders about expectations and our legal and moral responsibility to safeguard and promote the physical, mental and emotional welfare of all children at our school; this includes pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers, trainees and visitors.
	This policy sets out a clear and consistent framework for our commitment to safeguarding, in line with safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance. It will be achieved by:
	 Ensuring that members of the governing board, the headteacher, 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. Ensuring that staff are aware that ANYONE can make a referral. 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, or exploitation.
- Creating a culture of safer recruitment by adopting procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children.
- Endeavouring to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued; where the voice of the child is listened to and is paramount.
- Where it is believed that a child 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

2. Definitions

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 Maharishi School is safe and protected from harm. The Department for Education's 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2022), 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 **child on child abuse** and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; upskirting; and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals; abuse in intimate personal relationships between children; consensual or non-consensual sharing of nudes or semi-nude images or videos, or causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent.

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.

3. 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 of 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 2023: 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 2022
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 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.
- <u>Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003</u> as inserted by the Serious Crime Act 2015.
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- <u>The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision</u> <u>Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</u>

Relevant Non-statutory guidance

- DfE (2015) 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
- DfE (2018) 'Information sharing'
- DfE (2020) 'Governance handbook'
- DfE (2017) 'Child sexual exploitation'
- DfE (2022) 'Recruit teachers from overseas'
- UKCIS (2020) 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people'
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'
- DfE (2023) 'Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges'
- DfE (2022) 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- School Attendance Policy
- Prevent Duty Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Use of Mobile Phones Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct / Staff handbook

- Enabling Good Behaviour Policy
- Medical Needs Policy
- Low Level Concerns Policy
- Induction Policy

4. Roles & Responsibilitie s

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 children have opportunities to communicate and know that they are listened to and understood
- Contribute to providing a curriculum which will equip all children 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 and secure 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 engage with 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 (at least annually), (which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations and responsibilities relating to filtering and monitoring) including receiving bulletins, emails and briefings. Staff should undertake Prevent awareness training at least every two years
- 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 child
- Be aware of and understand the procedure to follow in the event that a child 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, sharing indecent images, extremist behaviours 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 child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Be aware that a pupil may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected, and/or may not recognise their experiences as harmful.
- Understand the process for reporting concerns over professional adults.

Teachers, including the headteacher, 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'
- Report, by law, any disclosures of FGM to the police.

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
- Ensure that all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training upon their induction and that this training is updated regularly
- Ensure that staff read, understand and follow Part one and Annexe B of KCSIE September 2022
- Ensure a named Governor takes leadership responsibility for safeguarding arrangements and receives appropriate training in the

- management of safeguarding
- Attend **Prevent training** at least bi-annually
- Appoint an appropriate member of staff from the SLT to the role of DSL and one or more deputy DLSs to provide support and ensure that they are trained to the same standard as the DSL ensuring 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
- Support and monitor 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 children 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 child is heard and acted upon
- Ensure effective and appropriate policies and procedures in place
- Make sure that pupils are taught about safeguarding, and safeguarding
 is embedded with the curriculum, 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, including online safety and expectations and responsibilities relating to filtering and monitoring systems e.g. 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 **child-on-child** abuse
- Appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of LAC and ensure that this person has undergone appropriate training
- 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 **children are safe online** by ensuring that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place
- Ensure that safeguarding is embedded within the curriculum
- Ensure staff in school are aware of, and policies are personalised to reflect, an understanding of specific issues such as child-on-child abuse and safeguarding children with disabilities and special educational needs
- Complete the \$175/175 audit tool on a bi-annual basis (at least)
- Be aware of their obligations under the **Human Rights Act 1998**, the Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure that all practice and procedures operate with the best interests of the child at the centre with a **firm child centred approac**h

The DSL has a duty to:

- Take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, including online safety, creating and maintaining a highly visible safeguarding culture
- 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 children, and/or support other staff to do so
- Ensure that all staff receive appropriate safeguarding training
- Be available during school hours for staff to discuss safeguarding concerns
- Arrange, alongside the school, adequate and appropriate cover of the DSL role for any out of school hours/out of term activities
- Make referrals:
 - > To CSC where abuse and neglect are suspected, and support staff who make referrals to 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** for multi-agency partners
- Ensure effective communication and information sharing (when appropriate) between the DSL team/Family Support Worker/SLT/Governors/Headteacher
- Ensure **effective communication** and information sharing (when appropriate) between other staff members
- Liaise with staff when deciding whether to make a referral by **liaising with** relevant agencies so that children's needs are considered holistically
- Liaise with the **Family Support Worker** where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health.
- Promote supportive engagement with parents in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances
- Work with relevant staff, taking lead responsibility for promoting
 educational outcomes for children, 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 children 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
 child's journey
- Ensure all stakeholders understand the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and internal procedures to report any concerns are clear and understood by all. Ensure this information is given at INSET, induction and at regular intervals/ training

- Work with the governing body 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 at least every 2 years to remain compliant
- Ensure opportunities for **further training** and opportunities for upskilling are taken
- Encourage a culture of listening to children promoting the voice of the child
- 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 (at least) bi-annually
- 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
- Have due regard to Appendix C of Keeping Children Safe in Education
 2022 'The Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead'

Maharishi School recognises that Deputy DSL's must be trained to the same standard as the DSL. There are five DSL's in total.

The designated teacher has a responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of LAC and previously LAC, and for children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales. In our setting, this is Lisa Walters (Secondary Deputy Headteacher and whole school SENCO)

5. Training & Induction

Maharishi School is committed to providing staff and volunteers with ongoing training and development to keep staff aware of emerging issues and keeping the ethos of safeguarding high. Everybody has a role to play in safeguarding our children and we strive to ensure that all staff are well informed and know what to do if they have any concerns. Staff members, governors and volunteers will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction and will be regularly updated, including where there is a change to legislation.

The induction training includes:

- DSL team information the role and members of the safeguarding team
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- The Staff Code of Conduct
- Part one of 'Keeping children safe in education' (KCSIE 2022) or Annex A, if appropriate
- Enabling Good Behaviour policy
- Attendance policy
- Children Missing Education policy
- Appropriate child protection and safeguarding training, including online safety training
- How to record your concerns in our setting
 - → Ensure records are kept of all inductions

Following induction, Maharishi School recognises the need to ensure continual, effective training to staff and other stakeholders. We therefore ensure that:

- ALL staff, governors and volunteers will receive relevant safeguarding training (at least) annually
- The DSL's will provide ALL staff, volunteers and governors with regular safeguarding updates
- ALL staff, volunteers and governors will read and show an understanding of any updates that are provided
- DSL's will attend DSL training every 2 years and will update their knowledge, skills and understanding of relevant safeguarding issues on a regular basis
- The DSL, along with Governors and all staff will undertake Prevent awareness training (at least) every two years
- At least one member of staff and one governor will attend Safer Recruitment Training. This will be renewed at least every 2-3 years
- ALL staff, volunteers and governors will undertake any additional training on matters such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent, Child-on-Child abuse, Online Safety, FGM, etc. as is deemed necessary by the senior leadership team/DSL's and that is particularly relevant to the context and needs of the setting
- Any staff member will discuss any specific training requirements or gaps in knowledge or understanding with the DSL's
- Staff will receive opportunities to contribute towards and inform the safeguarding arrangements in the school

6. Multi-agency working

Maharishi 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.lancashiresafeguarding.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, Children's Social Care (CSC), the Police, Health services and other relevant partners and agencies for the benefit of families and children 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.

Maharishi School also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

Information sharing

Maharishi 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).

7. Early Help

Early help means providing support as soon as the need emerges, at any point

in a

child's life. Staff at Maharishi School recognise that any professional can provide early help. We have a part-time Family Support Worker and a SENCo team consisting of a lead SENCo and a SENCo assistant. We have one ELSA trained staff (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and a trained Drawing & Talking therapy lead. Any pupil or family may benefit from early help, but staff will be alert to the potential need specifically for early help for pupils who:

- are disabled, have certain health conditions or have specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan)
- are young carers
- have mental health needs
- are showing signs of being drawn into antisocial or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines
- are frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- are misusing drugs or alcohol
- 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
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- have returned home to their family from care
- are at risk of Honour Based Abuse (HBA), such as Female Genital Mutiliation (FGM) or forced marriage
- are privately fostered
- are displaying harmful sexual behaviours which may pose a risk to other children and themselves
- 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's 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.

<u>Early Help Assessment - information for professionals - Lancashire County</u>
Council

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.

We 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
- DSL's will undertake a Family Early Help Assessment, when appropriate, to identify what Early Help is required
- DSL's will signpost and refer to appropriate support agencies
- DSL's will lead on TAF meetings where is it 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 the Levels of Need contained within <u>Working Well</u> <u>with Children and Families in Lancashire</u> guidance

8. 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. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing the ill treatment of others – this can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. Children may be abused in a family, institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others, e.g. 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, biting, 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 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 will be aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect and be

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 at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families (extra - familial harms).

- All staff will 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.
- ALL staff understand that children 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 will be undertaken where a child's behaviour poses a risk to others, themselves or the environment.
- ALL staff and volunteers understand that there are specific and emerging ways in which children 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):
- Domestic abuse
- Homelessness
- Children absent from school
- Children attending an approved educational activity
- Child criminal exploitation (CCE)
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Modern slavery
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage
- Extremism and radicalisation (including the Prevent Duty)
- Private fostering
- Pupils with family members in prison
- Child-on-child abuse including sexualised abuse
- Serious violence
- Online safety
- Upskirting
- Sharing nude and semi-nude images

9. 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.

Maharishi School recognises 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 will be aware of the signs of domestic abuse and follow the

appropriate safeguarding procedures where concerns arise.

Maharishi School has a commitment to Operation Encompass and to informing all stakeholders of the initiative. The lead persons for Operation Encompass are Lisa Edwards and Lisa Walters www.operationencompass.org

10. Homelessness

The DSL and deputy DSL(s) are aware of the contact details and referral routes into

the Local Housing Authority so that concerns and support over homelessness can be raised as early as possible. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include:

- Household debt
- Rent arrears
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Any mention of a family moving home because "they have to" or frequent moves.

Referrals to the Local Housing Authority do not replace referrals to CSC where a child

is being harmed or at risk of harm. For 16 and 17 year olds, homelessness may not be

family-based and referrals to CSC will be made as necessary where concerns are raised.

11. Children Absent from School

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.

12. Children attending an approved educational activity

An approved educational activity is where a pupil is attending another school at which they are registered or taking part in off-site activity such as field trips, educational visits, work experience or unregistered alternative provision.

Pupils can only be recorded as attending an off-site activity if it is approved by the school, of an educational nature and supervised by someone authorised by the school. Ultimately, the school is responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils taking part in an off-site educational activity so it would be reasonable to expect that the school would only authorise someone who was answerable to the school to supervise an activity. Such activities include:

- Dual registered at another school
- Participating in a supervised sporting activity
- Educational visit or trip
- Work experience.

13. 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 for 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, e.g. knife crime.
- Receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, collecting money
- Being found in accommodation they have no connection to
- Owing a 'debt bond' to their exploiters
- Having their bank account used to facilitate drug dealing.

14. 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.

The school will recognise that CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence, and may happen without the pupil's immediate knowledge, e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media. The school will recognise 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 will also recognise that pupils may not realise they are being exploited and they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

School staff will 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 will discuss the case with the DSL. If after

discussion a concern remains, local safeguarding procedures will be triggered.

15. Concealed & denied pregnancy

A concealed pregnancy is when a woman knows she is pregnant but does not tell anyone; or when she tells a professional but conceals the fact that she is not accessing antenatal care; or when she tells another person or persons and together they conceal the fact from all agencies. A denied pregnancy is when an expectant mother is unaware of or unable to accept the existence of her pregnancy. Physical changes to the body may not be present or be misconstrued; they may be intellectually aware of the pregnancy but continue to think, feel and behave as though they were not pregnant. There may be a number of reasons why a pregnancy is concealed or denied, including, but not limited to; fear of stigma or shame, in cases of rape, sexual or domestic abuse, forced or sham marriage, in cases of rape, sexual or domestic abuse, forced or

sham marriage, fear of a child being removed or asylum seekers and illegal immigrants who may be reluctant to come to the attention of authorities. In some cases the woman may be truly unaware that she is pregnant. In some cases an expectant mother may be in denial of her pregnancy.

Where there is a suspicion of a concealed or denied pregnancy, the school will follow the

procedures set out by our local Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements.

<u>Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire Children's Safeguarding</u>
<u>Assurance</u>

<u>Partnership (proceduresonline.com)</u>

16. 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 will be aware of and alert to the signs that a pupil may be the victim of modern

slavery. Staff will 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':

17. Female Genital Mutilation (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 will 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 will be aware of the indicators that pupils may be at risk of FGM. While some

individual indicators 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 will 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 FSM.

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 will be alert to the signs of HBA, including concerns that a child 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.

18. 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, e.g. 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 will speak to the DSL and local safeguarding procedures will be followed – this could include referral to CSC, the

police or the Forced Marriage Unit. It will be made clear to staff members that they should not approach the pupil's family or those with influence in the community, without the express consent of the pupil, as this will alert them to

the concerns and may place the pupil in further danger.

19. Extremism and 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 will be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Staff will use their professional judgment 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 to ensure awareness of local & national incidents that may heighten the activity of extreme groups or cause increased curiosity of children.

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 child 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 and ensure that all staff and governors have received appropriate and up-to-date training.

❖ The Online Safety Policy support the safety of children 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. The Prevent duty Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, all schools are 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. Maharishi 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.' The Prevent lead is Audrey O'Neill. 20. Private 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, this may amount to private fostering under the Fostering 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. 21. Pupils with a 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 family member member in prison?' from Action for Prisoners' Families where appropriate and in prison allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns. 22. **Child-on-child abuse** is defined as abuse between children under 18 years of Child-on-child age. abuse Maharishi School has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, including including child-on-child abuse. sexualised abuse Maharishi School will refer to specific guidance in Keeping Children Safe in **Education Part**

Sexual Harassment

and

and

five: Child on Child Sexual Violence

Lancashire

Procedures. 5.31 Peer Abuse (proceduresonline.com)

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

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

Child-on-child 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 will be clear as to the school's policy and procedures regarding child-on-child 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 will be made aware of the heightened vulnerability of pupils with SEND, who evidence suggests are more likely to be abused than their peers. Staff will not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the pupil's SEND and will always explore indicators further.

All staff will be 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 children of the opposite sex.

Pupils will be 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 will also be reassured that they will be taken seriously, be supported, and kept safe. This process will be continually reviewed by the DSL / SLT.

The school's procedures for managing allegations of child-on-child abuse are outlined in the School Behaviour Policy. Staff will follow these procedures, as well as the procedures outlined in the school's Anti-Bullying Policy and Exclusion Policy, where relevant.

Maharishi School's DSL's 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 children involved
- the development stages of the children involved
- any power imbalance between the children
- is the incident a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse
- are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children 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 children (and if appropriate adult students and staff).
- Risk assessments will be recorded and kept under review as a minimum termly
- Refer to Guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education Sept 2022, Part 5.

23. Serious violence

Through training, all staff will be made aware of the indicators which may signal a

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 will immediately report their concerns to the DSL.

24. Online safety

Maharishi School will adhere to the Online Safety Policy at all times and is committed to keeping children safe online. The school recognises that addressing online safety issues should form an integral part of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

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

The school will ensure that suitable filtering systems are in place on ICT equipment to prevent children accessing inappropriate material. This system will be monitored and

reviewed with any inappropriate behaviours or searches being followed up

appropriately.

Further information regarding the school's approach to online safety can be found in the Online Safety Policy. When the school becomes aware of an online safety issue that has occurred outside of school, it is managed in accordance with the school Online Safety Policy and School Behaviour Policy.

25. Sharing

Formerly referred to as 'Sexting', sharing nudes and semi-nudes is defined as

nude and semi-nude images

the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams online by young people under the age of 18. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or forums. (UKCIS, 2020)

UKCIS – Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings (UKCIS, 2020)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people

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 and will

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.

Staff will 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 sharing nudes/semi-nudes that involves indecent images of a pupil, they will 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 will:

- Refrain from viewing, copying, 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 reassure 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, sending or possession of nudes and semi-nudes; 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 sending of nudes and semi-nudes where there is no adult involvement, no apparent intent to harm or reckless misuse

Where it is necessary to view the imagery, e.g. if this is the only way to make a decision

about whether to inform other agencies, the DSL should:

- Never copy, print, share, store or save them; this is illegal.
- Discuss this decision with the headteacher or member of the SLT.
- Make sure viewing is undertaken by the DSL (or equivalent) or another member of the safeguarding team with delegated authority from the headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team.
- Make sure viewing takes place with another member of staff present in the room, ideally the headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team.
- Wherever possible, make sure viewing takes place on the premises of the education setting, ideally in the headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team's office.
- Ensure the image is, where possible, viewed by someone of the same sex as the individual depicted.
- Record how and why the decision was made to view the imagery in the safeguarding or child protection records, including who was present, why the nudes or semi-nudes were viewed and any subsequent actions.
- If any devices need to be taken and passed onto the police, the device(s) should be confiscated and the police should be called.

The above summarised points are explained in further detail with important supporting guidance in the UKCIS guidance – Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings.

26. 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), will 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.

27. Pupils potentially at greater risk of harm

Maharishi school recognises that some groups of pupils can face additional safeguarding

challenges, and understands that further barriers may exist when determining abuse and

neglect in these groups of pupils. Additional considerations for managing safeguarding

concerns and incidents amongst these groups are outlined below:

Pupils who need social workers

Pupils may need social workers due to safeguarding or welfare needs. These needs can leave pupils vulnerable to further harm and educational disadvantage. As a matter of routine, the DSL within each school will hold and use information from their LA about whether a pupil has a social worker in order to make decisions in the best interests of

the pupil's safety, welfare, and educational outcomes. Where a pupil needs a social worker, this will inform decisions about safeguarding, e.g. responding to unauthorised absence, and promoting welfare and educational outcomes, e.g.considering the provision pastoral or academic support and support with behaviour.

Home-educated children

Parents may choose elective home education (EHE) for their children. In some cases, EHE can mean that children are less visible to the services needed to safeguard and support them. In line with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, Delph Side will ensure it informs their LA of all deletions from the admissions register when a pupil is taken off roll. Where a parent has expressed their intention to remove a pupil from a school within the trust for EHE, the school and other key professionals, will coordinate a meeting with the parent, where possible, before the final decision has been made, particularly if the pupil has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker.

Where children are removed from the roll for Elective Home Education and there are safeguarding concerns, school will ensure that concerns are shared with the LA.

CLA

Children most commonly become looked after because of abuse and/or neglect. Because of this, they can be at potentially greater risk in relation to safeguarding. Previously CLA, also known as care leavers, can also remain vulnerable after leaving care.

The school will ensure that the appropriate staff have the information they need, such as:

• Looked after legal status, i.e. whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents, or on an interim or full care order.

- Contact arrangements with parents or those with parental responsibility.
- Care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority

looking after the pupil.

Pupils with SEND

When managing safeguarding in relation to pupils with SEND, staff within the trust and its

schools will be aware of the following:

• 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 disproportionally 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 SENCO, as well as the pupil's parents where appropriate, to ensure that the pupil's needs are met effectively.

LGBTQ+ pupils

The fact that a pupil may be LGBTQ+ is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm; however, staff will be aware that LGBTQ+ pupils can be targeted by other individuals. Staff will also be aware that, in some cases, a pupil who is perceived by others to be LGBTQ+ (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as pupils who identify as LGBTQ+.

Staff will also be aware that the risks to these pupils can be compounded when they do not

have a trusted adult with whom they can speak openly with. All staff will endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced by these pupils and provide a safe space for them to speak out and share any concerns they have.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma

We acknowledge that children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences and

trauma may be at increased risk of developing health and social difficulties.

All staff will be made aware of the long lasting impact of experiencing adversity and the lasting effect trauma can have on a child's development. Where a pupil is known to have experienced trauma, appropriate arrangements will be made to provide support based on the needs of the pupil and in line with all relevant guidance and policies. This may include close multi-agency working with external services.

28. Extra- curricular clubs and activities	Extra-curricular activities and clubs hosted by external bodies, e.g. charities or companies, will work in collaboration with the school to effectively safeguard pupils and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements.
	Staff and volunteers running extracurricular 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.
	Where the governing body hires or rents out school facilities or the school premises to organisations or individuals, e.g. for providers to run community or extracurricular activities, it will ensure that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place to keep pupils safe. The school will refer to the DfE's guidance on keeping children safe in out-of-school settings in these circumstances.
	Maharishi School will always consider safeguarding arrangements when an extracurricular activity or club is arranged in view of DSL availability or ensuring that a transfer of control document has been completed for external agencies and the school is satisfied that the agency has appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place.
29. Alternative Provision	The school will remain responsible for a pupil's welfare during their time at an alternative provider. When placing a pupil with an alternative provider, the school will obtain written confirmation that the provider has conducted all relevant safeguarding checks on staff.
30. Managing referrals	All staff members, in particular the DSL, will 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 will 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 decides 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.

31. Concerns about staff and safeguarding practices

If a staff member has concerns about another member of staff (including supply staff and volunteers), it will be raised with the headteacher. If the concern is with regards to the headteacher, it will be referred to the chair of governors, Dr Ian Birnbaum. ibirnbaum@maharishischool.com

Any concerns regarding the safeguarding practices at the school will be raised with the senior leadership team, 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).

32. 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 at induction. 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 Maharishi School are aware of these procedures and aware of the following

expectations and protocol:

- ALL staff and volunteers are aware that they must refer allegations or concerns around staff (including supply staff) conduct to the Headteacher
- ALL staff and volunteers are aware of the requirement to, and process of referring allegations or concerns around the Headteacher to the nominated Governor and how to contact them
- The Headteacher and/or Chair of Governors will discuss the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- ALL staff and volunteers remember that the welfare of the child is paramount and that they have a duty to inform the Headteacher if any adult's conduct gives cause for concern
- All staff recognise the importance of sharing and reporting low-level concerns (see below guidance on low-level concerns) surrounding staff or any adult in a position of trust to the Headteacher
- ALL staff are 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
- Staff are fully aware of Guidance for Safer Working Practice 2022 and Staff

Code of Conduct and are aware of professional expectations of their own behaviour and conduct.

Maharishi School recognises that children may make disclosures against someone who is in a position of trust not in the school setting. This may be an adult in a place of

worship, a sports coach or a club leader. After ensuring that the child is safe, we

recognise that we must refer to the LADO and share information.

33. Safer Recruitment

Maharishi School is committed to keeping pupils safe by ensuring that adults who work or volunteer in school are safe to do so. We therefore ensure that:

- 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.

(Regular is defined as; at least 3 times in a 30 day period.)

The DfE's <u>DBS Workforce Guides</u> will be consulted when determining whether a position fits the child workforce criteria.

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

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
- Consideration on carrying out an online search as part of our due diligence on shortlisted candidates. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online.
- A transfer of control agreement will be used where other agencies/organisations use school premises and are not operating under school's safeguarding policies and procedures
- 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 Childcare Act 2006.
- With regard to Disqualification Under the Childcare Act we will adhere to government guidance.
- It is good practice to ensure that this declaration is renewed annually for those staff working in a relevant setting, is evidenced and will be retained and stored securely.
- When an issue is declared, advice will be sought from Ofsted about the need to apply for a waiver. If a waiver is necessary, a risk assessment will be carried out and proportionate measures put in place until a waiver has been issued or matters resolved. If it is not resolved, this must be reported:- disqualification@ofsted.gov.uk
- Advice will be sought from Human Resources, LADO and/or Schools Safeguarding Officers if any staff are unclear about any aspects of Safer Recruitment.
- ALL staff will monitor the conduct of all adults who come into contact with children at school and report any concerns to the DSL, headteacher or Chair of Governors as appropriate

Review: This Policy is subject to ongoing review; however, will be reviewed no later than September 2024. All staff have received a copy of this policy.

34. Review Dates	Policy adopted by the Governing Body on:	October 2023		
	Policy to be reviewed:	September 202	4	
35.Key Contacts, roles and training	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Lisa Walters (Early Help, Family Support & Adverse Childhood Experiences Lead)		
	Date DSL Training Attended	16.11.22		
	Back-Up/Deputy DSL(s)	Lisa Edwards Headteacher (Deputy DSL) (Parental Engagement & online safety Lead) DSL training 11.10.22 Safer recruitment training 17.10.22	Laura Gaskell (Child Sexual Exploitation Lead) DSL training 11.10.22	Audrey O'Neill (Prevent Lead) DSL training 11.10.22 The National College: The Prevent Duty 23.11.22
	Chair of Governors	Dr. lan Birnbaum Annual safeguarding for Governors and Trustees - September 2023 Annual Certificate in Safer recruitment - September 2023		
	Safeguarding Governor	Claire Latham DSL Refresher Nov 2022 Prevent August 2023 KCSIE September 2023		
	Family Support Worker	Jayne Hales 05.09.23 Annual Certificate in Safeguarding for Staff (The National College)		
	Business Manager	Paul Magee 05.09.23 Annual Certificate in Safeguarding for Staff (The National College)		

Additional training for staff	Whole staff training - Safeguarding	05.09.23 Annual Certificate in Safeguarding for Staff (The National College), including KCSIE 2023
	LCC Schools Safeguarding Officer	Victoria Wallace & Mechelle Lewis 01772 531196 school.safeguarding@lancashire.gov.uk
	Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Tim Booth / Shane Penn / Donna Green - 01772 536694 <u>LADO.admin@lancashire.gov.uk</u>
	MASH Education Officers	Jenny Ashton 01772 531643 jennifer.ashton@lancashire.gov.uk Matt Chipchase 01524 220989 matt.chipchase@lancashire.gov.uk
	MASH – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	0300 123 6720 0300 123 6722 between 5.00pm - 8.00am