What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means:

. 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

. Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

At PCA we take this very seriously and recognize that safeguarding and child protection is **everyone's** responsibility. This includes all staff, volunteers and governors in the school.

Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The DSL is a member of the senior leadership team. Our DSL is Gill Hughes (Headteacher). The DSL takes lead responsibility for child protection and wider safeguarding in the school. However at PCA we have a team of DSL's, so there is always somebody available to speak to.

During term time, a DSL will be available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

A DSL can be contacted during out of hours if needed on 07794521047.

The other DSL's at PCA are:

Liz Kelso (Child and Family Support Manager)

Martin Mooney (Child and Family Support Worker)

Hayley Gardiner (Deputy Head teacher)

Ben Whittaker (Assistant Head teacher)

Kristy Emsley (Assistant Head teacher)

Victoria Heaney (Assistant Head teacher)

Ensuring pupils feel safe

We recognise the importance of ensuring pupils feel safe and comfortable to come forward and report any concerns and/or allegations.

To achieve this, we will:

  Put systems in place for pupils to confidently report abuse (SHARP system- https://www.park.blackpool.sch.uk/students/Sharp-System)

. Ensure our reporting systems are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for pupils

. Make it clear to pupils that their concerns will be taken seriously, and that they can safely express their views and give feedback

. Pupils to be informed during relationships/sex education curriculum of the reporting processes

. Pupils to be reminded during pastoral time of the reporting processes

. Pupils to be reassured and supported following disclosures and to include learning mentor support as needed

- Peer representatives through the student council
- Peer mentors
- Wellbeing Champions
- Open door policy for parents to feel comfortable and confident in sharing concerns

Responding to concerns

Where appropriate, we will discuss any concerns about a child with the child's parents or carers. The DSL will normally do this in the event of a concern or disclosure.

Other staff will only talk to parents or carers about any such concerns following consultation with the DSL.

If we believe that notifying the parents or carers would increase the risk to the child, we will discuss this with the local authority children's social care team before doing so.

If a referral to social care is made, the local authority will make a decision within 1 working day of a referral about what course of action to take and will let the person who made the referral know the outcome. The DSL or person who made the referral must follow up with the local authority if this information is not made available, and ensure outcomes are properly recorded.
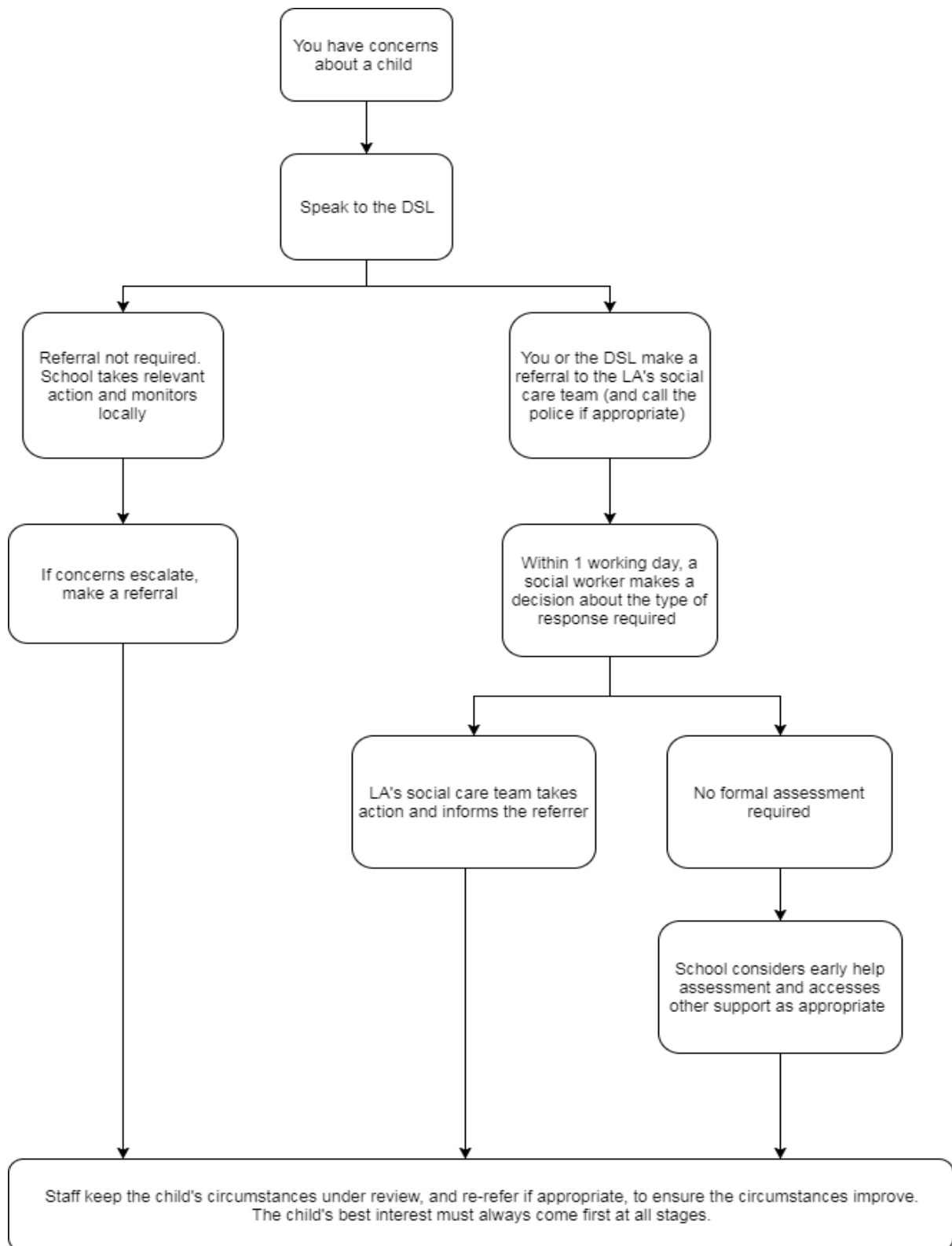
In the case of allegations of abuse made against other children, we will normally notify the parents or carers of all the children involved. We will think carefully about what information we provide about the other child involved, and when. We will work with the police and/or local authority children's social care to make sure our approach to information sharing is consistent.

The DSL will, along with any relevant agencies (this will be decided on a case-by-case basis):

- Meet with the parents or carers, of both children, to discuss what's being put in place to safeguard them, and understand their wishes in terms of what support they may need and how the report will be progressed

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The Sea View Trust is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of its information and ensuring that all records within the Trust are only accessible by the appropriate individuals. Further information can be found in the Trust's GDPR Compliant Records Policy, GDPR Data Protection Policy and GDPR Data Breach Policy.

Figure 1: procedure followed if there are concerns about a child

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                    ┌─────────────────────┐
                    │  You have concerns  │
                    │    about a child    │
                    └─────────────────────┘
                               │
                               ▼
                    ┌─────────────────────┐
                    │   Speak to the DSL   │
                    └─────────────────────┘
                               │
            ┌──────────────────┴──────────────────┐
            ▼                                      ▼
┌─────────────────────┐              ┌─────────────────────┐
│ Referral not required.│            │ You or the DSL make a │
│ School takes relevant │            │ referral to the LA's  │
│ action and monitors   │            │ social care team (and │
│ locally               │            │ call the police if    │
│                       │            │ appropriate)          │
└─────────────────────┘              └─────────────────────┘
            │                                      │
            ▼                                      ▼
┌─────────────────────┐              ┌─────────────────────┐
│ If concerns escalate, │            │ Within 1 working day, │
│ make a referral       │            │ a social worker makes │
│                       │            │ a decision about the  │
│                       │            │ type of response      │
│                       │            │ required              │
└─────────────────────┘              └─────────────────────┘
            │                                      │
            │                      ┌───────────────┴───────────────┐
            │                      ▼                               ▼
            │         ┌─────────────────────┐       ┌─────────────────────┐
            │         │ LA's social care team │     │ No formal assessment  │
            │         │ takes action and      │     │ required              │
            │         │ informs the referrer  │     │                       │
            │         └─────────────────────┘       └─────────────────────┘
            │                      │                               │
            │                      │                               ▼
            │                      │                  ┌─────────────────────┐
            │                      │                  │ School considers early│
            │                      │                  │ help assessment and   │
            │                      │                  │ accesses other support│
            │                      │                  │ as appropriate        │
            │                      │                  └─────────────────────┘
            │                      │                               │
            ▼                      ▼                               ▼
┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Staff keep the child's circumstances under review, and re-refer if      │
│ appropriate, to ensure the circumstances improve. The child's best      │
│ interest must always come first at all stages.                          │
└──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
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Peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up", as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for pupils.

We also recognise the gendered nature of child-on-child abuse. However, all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school's behaviour policy, but this child protection and safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

- Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
- Could put pupils in the school at risk
- Is violent
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol
- Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, upskirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes)

Online safety

We recognise the importance of safeguarding children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, and we understand that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

To address this, our school aims to:

- Have robust processes in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- Protect and educate the whole school community in its safe and responsible use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as 'mobile phones')
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for the whole school community
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incidents or concerns, where appropriate

The 4 key categories of risk

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as peer-to-peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and
- **Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

To meet our aims and address the risks above we will:

- o Educate pupils about online safety as part of our curriculum. Whilst regulation and technical solutions are very important, their use must be balanced by educating *pupils* to take a responsible approach. The education of *pupils* in online safety is therefore an essential part of the school's safeguarding provision. Children and young people need the help and support of the school to recognise and avoid online safety risks and build their resilience.

- For example:
  - o The safe use of social media, the internet and technology
  - o Keeping personal information private
  - o How to recognise unacceptable behaviour online
  - o How to report any incidents of cyber-bullying, ensuring pupils are encouraged to do so, including where they are a witness rather than a victim

The use of mobile phones

- Only **independent travellers** should bring mobile phones to school as agreed within the signed Park Community Academy, home school agreement. Students in The Oracle are also permitted to bring their mobile phones into school allowing them more independence in preparation for adulthood.
- It is the responsibility of the pupils bringing mobile phones to school to follow the guidelines outlined in this policy.
- If pupils bring mobile phones into school they will hand their phones in to class teachers at the beginning of the day. All phones must be turned off or put on silent. These will be placed in a secure lockable box or cupboard and phones labelled with the pupils name. They can be collected from class teachers at 3.05pm before children go home. Students in The Oracle are given the choice of where they would like to store their mobile phones, again giving them more responsibility and independence in preparation for adulthood. The choices are in their pocket, in their locker, or to a member of The Oracle staff.
- If parent/ carers decide to provide a mobile phone to their child it is understood that the parent / carers should be aware of the phone and the potential use / misuse of the phones capabilities.
- In exceptional emergency situations, the most effective way for parents to contact their child in case of an emergency is via the school office (01253 764130). School staff will ensure the pupil is reached immediately and is supported and assisted in an appropriate way.
- Any phone found during school time will be confiscated, stored in the box or cupboard and will only be available for collection at the end of the day. For students attending The Oracle, if their phone is seen out during taught times, it will be confiscated and kept with the member of staff and only be available for collection at the end of the day. If this happens on more than one occasion, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect the mobile phone from school in person.
- Any staff member that has a **school** mobile must ensure that it is secure at all times.
- School mobiles should not have any saved personal numbers of pupils, parents or families, or any text messages or photographs.
- Still photographs or video must be taken with a school camera/ipad where possible. In the event that a school camera is unavailable, if a photograph needs to be taken for schools records i.e., newsletter, record of achievement, work experience, Twitter, website, class Blog etc, these should be deleted off the school phone when no longer required.
- Staff should not have their personal phones out in the classroom during the school day, they should be kept secure and out of sight at all times.
- If staff have a wearable device which is connected to their phone then this should be deactivated during the school day so that phone calls, texts etc do not interrupt of disturb the lesson.

This section summarises our approach to online safety and mobile phone use. For comprehensive details about our school's policy on online safety and the use of mobile phones, please refer to our

online safety policy and mobile phone policy, which you can find on our website (https://www.park.blackpool.sch.uk/about/policies)

Non collection at the end of the school day

If a child is not collected at the end of the session/day, we will:

Attempt to contact parents

Attempt to contact any other contacts listed and provided by parents

Attempt a home visit

If school are still unable to contact anybody, social services will be informed.

Missing pupils

Our procedures are designed to ensure that a missing child is found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If a child goes missing, we will:

      a) Contact the Police and obtain a Log Number.

      b) Notify the parents/carers. If the parents/carers are unavailable we will leave a message (including contact numbers) *emphasising that the Police have been notified.*

      c) If necessary, we will send a text to contact school as soon as possible.

      d) Ask parents/carers to request that they contact the school/Sixth Form if the child returns home and assure them that the school/Sixth Form will do the same.

If the pupil is found other than by the Police, we will ensure the Police are also informed.

Please see the full policy (https://www.park.blackpool.sch.uk/about/policies) for more information on:

Record keeping

Types of abuse

Recruitment and selection processes

Low level concerns about staff

Children missing from education

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation

Honour based abuse

FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)

Domestic abuse

Homelessness

Radicalisation

Extremism

Sexual violence and sexual harassment