

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre



Part of the



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Review

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Role	Name	Signature	Date
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PART 1: Policy

1.1 Definitions

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge.
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online.
- Preventing the 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.

Child Protection is defined in the Children Act 1989 (s.47) as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Under statutory guidance and legislation, action must be taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

1.2 Introduction

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children, their families and carers, has a role to play.

- In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should always consider what is in the **best interests** of the child.
- We take an 'it can happen here' approach where safeguarding is concerned.
- **Everyone** who comes into contact with children has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
- Victims of harm should **never** be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by:

- The provision of a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Acting on concerns about a child's welfare immediately.
- Fulfilling our legal responsibilities to identify children who may need early help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

All action taken by **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will be in accordance with:

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- **Current legislation** (these are summarised within [Working together to safeguard children: statutory framework](#))
- **Statutory, national, and local guidance – this includes:**
 - [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#), which sets out the multiagency working arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm; in addition, it sets out the statutory roles and responsibilities of schools.
 - [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#) which is statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education which all schools and colleges must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
 - [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](#) is statutory guidance which sets standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to 5.
- **Local Guidance from the Local Safeguarding Partnership:** around particular safeguarding topics are available on the [Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Website](#).
- **Government guidance in relation to:**
 - **COVID19:** St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre have created an addendum to this document in the event of a further lockdown. This is accessible at **Appendix F**.
 - **Specific topical safeguarding issues** – a collection of up-to-date guidance can be found on the Safeguarding in Education Team's guidance page. [Key Guidance: Safeguarding in Education](#)

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Recruitment and Selection
 - Whistleblowing and Public Interest Disclosure
 - Code of Conduct for Staff
 - Low Level Concerns Policy
 - Learning Behaviours Policy (including measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
 - Policy on Supporting Children in Care
 - Attendance (including the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education)
 - Health, Safety & Wellbeing Policy
- Head teacher will ensure that the above policies and procedures, adopted by governing bodies and proprietors, are accessible, understood and followed by all staff.

1.3 Equalities and Rights Statement

With regards to safeguarding we will consider our duties under the [Equality Act 2010](#) and our general and specific duties under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#). General duties include:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. Foster good relations across all protected characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Details of our specific duties are published under St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre equality statement and measurable objectives. **These are available on our website** [Policies, child protection and safeguarding - St Philips Marsh Nursery School](#)).

We adhere to both the [Bristol Equality Charter](#) and [Bristol Children's Charter](#) with a view to contribute towards the [One City Plan](#).

Staff are aware of the additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This will be in line with our SEND and Inclusion Policy [Policies, child protection and safeguarding - St Philips Marsh Nursery School](#).

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre also adheres to the principals of and promotes anti-oppressive practice in line of the [United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child](#) and the [Human Rights Act 1998](#).

1.4 Overall Aims

This policy will contribute to the safeguarding of children at **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** by:

- Clarifying safeguarding expectations for members of the education setting's community, staff, governing body, learners, and their families.
- Contributing to the establishment of a safe, resilient, and robust safeguarding culture in the setting built on shared values; that learners are treated with respect and dignity, taught to treat each other and staff with respect, feel safe, have a voice and are listened to.
- Supporting contextual safeguarding approaches to practice recognising that the setting's site can be a location where harm can occur.
- Setting expectations for developing knowledge and skills within the setting's community (staff, learners, parents/carers) to the signs and indicators of safeguarding issues and how to respond to them.
- Early identification of need for vulnerable learners and provision of proportionate interventions to promote their welfare and safety.

- Working in partnership with learners, parents, and other agencies in the Local Safeguarding Partnership.

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre is named as a relevant agency in the Local Safeguarding Partnership (Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership). This policy sets out its statutory duty to co-operate, follow and comply with published arrangements as set out by the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership.

1.5 Professional expectations, roles, and responsibilities

1.5.1 Role of all staff

- All staff will read and understand Part 1 of statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education. Those working directly with children will also read Annex B. **[Those who do not work directly with children will have the option of reading Annex A instead]**
- In addition to this all staff will be aware of the systems in place which support safeguarding including reading this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; the Learning Behaviours Policy; the Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct); safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Know who and how to contact the DSL and any deputies, the Chair of Governors, and the Governor responsible for safeguarding.
- All staff will be able to identify vulnerable learners and take action to keep them safe. Information or concerns about learners will be shared with the DSL where it includes those:
 - who may need a social worker and may be experiencing abuse or neglect
 - requiring mental health support
 - who may benefit from early help
 - where there is a radicalisation concern
 - where a crime may have been committed
- Be clear as to the setting's policy and procedures about [child-on-child abuse](#), children missing education and [those requiring mental health support](#), and the [impact of technology in relation to online safety](#).
- Be involved where appropriate, in the implementation of individual plans to further safeguard vulnerable learners and understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.
- Record concerns appropriately and in a timely manner by using the setting's safeguarding systems.
- To be aware of the need to raise to the senior leadership team any concerns they have about safeguarding practices within the setting.

1.5.2 - Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Duties are further outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Annex C).

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Details of our DSL and Deputy DSLs are available on the St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre website ([Policies, child protection and safeguarding - St Philips Marsh Nursery School](#)), our newsletters and on the notice board in reception.

- The DSL is a senior member of staff who undertakes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within the setting.
- The DSL works with relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that learners in need are experiencing or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on learner's attendance, engagement and achievement at school.
- Activities include the management of work undertaken by any Deputy DSLs.
- Manage early identification of vulnerability of learners and their families from staff through cause for concerns or notifications. This will ensure detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- Manage referrals to the local safeguarding partners where learners with additional needs have been identified. These can include those –
 - who may need a social worker and may be experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation
 - requiring mental health support
 - who may benefit from early help
 - where there is a radicalisation concern
 - where a crime may have been committed

The DSL will also:

- Work with others – acting as a point of contact for outside agencies about safeguarding.
- Support and advise other staff in making referrals to other agencies.
- When required, liaise with the case manager and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in relation to child protection cases which concern a staff member.
- Coordinate safeguarding training and raise awareness and understanding to the settings' community around policies and practice in relation to safeguarding.
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing information about vulnerable learners with relevant staff. This includes ensuring that staff:
 - Know who these children are.
 - Understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.
 - Are supported to identify the challenges that children in this group might face.
 - Provide additional academic support or make reasonable adjustments to help children who have **or have had** a social worker to reach their potential.
- Ensure the successful transfer of the safeguarding/child protection file from CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System) when a learner moves on

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to a new setting within 5 days for in year transfer or the first 5 days of the start of a new term.

- Ensure appropriate safeguarding cover and availability during term time/any out of hours/out of term activities managed by the setting.

1.5.3 - Role of the Governing Body -

Duties are further outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 2).

- The governing body will ensure that all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in the setting are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole setting approach to safeguarding. This training will be regularly updated.
- There is a senior board level lead who takes responsibility for the setting's safeguarding responsibility to ensure that safeguarding and child protection practice, process, and policy (including online safety) is effective and is compliant with legislation, statutory guidance, and Local Safeguarding Partnership arrangements (Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership).
- The appointed Safeguarding Governor will liaise with the Head Teacher/and the DSL to produce an annual report for governors and complete the S.175 (annual safeguarding) audit for the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership.
- Ensure that the setting remedies any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to its attention without delay.
- Ensure that this document is updated annually (or when there are significant updates).
- Ensure that the DSL is an appropriate senior member of setting's senior leadership team and ensure that they have adequate time, funding, training, resources, and support to carry out their role effectively.
- Ensure that the training and learning for the settings' community is robust and effective.
- Ensure that learners are taught about safeguarding on the curriculum including online safety in compliance with statutory guidance [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- Review the [Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK](#) and make sure the setting is compliant with the requirements to meet these duties through discussions with IT staff and service providers.
- To ensure that teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers, and contractors have appropriate checks carried out in line with statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 3).
- Ensure that there are procedures in place to manage safeguarding concerns or allegations against teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers, and contractors who may not be suitable to work with or pose a risk to learners, this includes having a process to manage low-level concerns.

- Ensure that systems are in place for learners to effectively share a concern about a safeguarding issue they are experiencing, express their views and give feedback.
- Ensure that the setting has systems in place to prevent, identify and respond to child-on-child harm (including sexual abuse and sexual harassment) and mental health concerns, and review the effectiveness of the setting's online safety practices.
- Appoint a Designated Teacher to promote the educational achievement for children in care and other care arrangements.

1.6 Safeguarding training for staff

1.6.1 - All staff:

- Governing bodies and proprietors will ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety, which amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles, and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) at induction.
- Will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection refresher training (including online safety incorporating staff responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) at least annually (via formal training, email e-bulletins and staff meetings).
- All staff must complete FGM awareness training and will understand their legal duty under the [Mandatory Reporting Duty](#).
- All staff must complete PREVENT awareness training. This is to ensure that they can comply with the legal expectations under the PREVENT duty.
- Staff training includes clear reference to internal whistleblowing policy, the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer and guidance for escalating concerns.

1.6.2 - Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies:

- Will undergo formal training to provide them with the knowledge and skills (including online safety which amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles, and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) training required to carry out the role. The training will be updated at least every two years.
- Deputies will be trained to the same level as the DSL.
- The DSL and any deputies will liaise with the Local Safeguarding Partnership (Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership) to ensure that their knowledge and skills are updated via e-bulletins, attend DSL network meetings, and take time to read and digest safeguarding bulletins.

1.6.3 - Other training considerations:

- The governing body will ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel will have undertaken safer recruitment training, in line with [The School Staffing \(England\) Regulations 2009](#).
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team will make themselves aware of and understand their role within the local safeguarding arrangements. This will ensure that those who have responsibility for the management of behaviour, inclusion,

Special Educational Needs, attendance, and exclusions will carry out their duties with a safeguarding consideration.

- The Designated Teacher for Children in Care will undergo appropriate training to fulfil their role to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are in care.
- The mental health lead has access to appropriate training.
- Training around safeguarding topics in Annex B (including online safety which amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles, and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) will be integrated, aligned, and considered as part of a whole setting safeguarding approach.
- Appropriate colleagues have received appropriate training in relation to use of reasonable force and positive handling.

1.7 Safeguarding in the curriculum

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre is dedicated to ensuring that learners are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. We recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all learners, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable learners, victims of abuse and some SEND children might be needed. This is part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

This includes:

- Working within statutory guidance in respect to [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-statutory-guidance); and [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-statutory-framework).
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, to explore key areas such as self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, power, building resilience to radicalisation, e-safety and bullying.
- Appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to ensure that 'over-blocking' does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what learners can be taught about online teaching and safeguarding.
- The curriculum will be shaped to respond to safeguarding incident patterns in the setting identified by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and safeguarding team (e.g., to respond to an increase in bullying incidents).
- Providing engagement opportunities with parents and carers to consult on key aspects of the curriculum.
- Learners can inform the curriculum via discussions with their key adults.

1.8 Safer recruitment and safer working practice

1.8.1 - Safer recruitment

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre pays full regard to the safer recruitment practices detailed in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (Part 3).

- This includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history, and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. References are always obtained, scrutinised and concerns resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.
- Also including undertaking online safety checks on shortlisted candidates. Undertaking appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), the barred list checks and prohibition checks (and overseas checks if appropriate), dependent on the role and duties performed, including regulated and non-regulated activity.
- All recruitment materials will include reference to St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of learners.

1.8.2 - Use of reasonable force

'Reasonable force' refers to the physical contact to restrain and control children using no more force than is needed.' The use of reasonable force is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and will be determined by individual circumstances and the vulnerability of any child with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) will be considered.

- The use of reasonable force will be minimised through positive and proactive behaviour support and de-escalation and will follow government guidance ([Use of Reasonable Force in Schools 2013; Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention, 2019](#)).
- There is robust recording of any incident where positive handling or restraint has been used. Further review of the incident is carried out to reflect on how the incident could be avoided, this will involve the child and their family.

The process around how the setting manages concerns where a professional may pose a risk to learners and our response to low level concerns can be accessed in section [2.8 Allegations of abuse made against professionals](#).

1.8.3 - Whistleblowing procedures

Staff are aware of the following whistleblowing channels for situations where they feel unable to raise an issue with the senior leadership team or feel that their genuine concerns are not being addressed:

- General guidance can be found at: Advice on whistleblowing <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>.
- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available [here](#) for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk.
- The above channels are clearly accessible to all staff (in the staff handbook, code of conduct and on staff notice boards).

1.9 Key safeguarding areas

These topics are themes that can impact on children and families, there are specific areas of safeguarding that the setting has statutory responsibilities to address which are hyperlinked:

- Children in the court system – Guidance to support children is available
- [Young witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds](#)
- [Young witness booklet for 12 to 17 year olds](#)
- Children affected by parental offending/imprisonment
- [Children missing from education](#) – including persistent absence
- [Child Exploitation](#) (including both Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation and county lines, modern day slavery and trafficking)
- Cybercrime
- [Domestic Abuse](#)
- Homelessness
- So-called Honour based Abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage),
- [Online Safety](#)
- [Mental health](#)
- [Child-on-child harm](#):
 - Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).
 - Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (also known as teenage relationship abuse).
 - Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse).
 - Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence).
 - Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.
 - Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.
 - Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery).
 - Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm; and
 - Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could 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).
- [Preventing Radicalisation \(The Prevent Duty\)](#)
- [Serious Youth Violence](#)
- Substance Misuse
- [Private Fostering](#)

- [Young Carers](#)
- Forced Migration

Additional information about key safeguarding areas can also be found in Keeping Children Safe in Education(Annex B); the [NSPCC website - Types of Abuse](#); And for localised resources for education settings [The Bristol Safeguarding in Education website](#).

PART 2: Procedures

2.1 Reporting concerns

All staff are clear about recording and reporting concerns to the DSL or deputies in a timely way. If a child is in immediate danger, staff should phone the police. At **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre**, we record all safeguarding concerns on our recording system, CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System).

All staff are aware of and follow the procedures to respond to a concern about a child detailed in [Appendix B](#). This includes responses to child-on-child harm and children who present with a mental health need.

At **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** children can raise their concerns via speaking to a trusted adult and they will always be treated seriously. *Due to the age and needs of the children here, this may be facilitated by adults observing behaviour, changes to behaviour and appearance and raise concerns on the child's behalf and they will be treated seriously.

2.2 Information Sharing

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre is committed to have due regard to relevant data protection principles which allow for sharing (and withholding) personal information as provided for in the [Data Protection Act 2018](#) and [UK General Data Protection Regulations](#). This includes how to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal and should be treated as 'special category personal data'.

Staff at the setting are aware that:

- 'Safeguarding' and 'individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data.
- Practitioners will seek consent to share data where possible in line with [Information Sharing for Safeguarding Practitioners 2024](#).
- It is recommended that staff should read the [Department for Education Data Protection Guidance for Schools](#).

There may be times when it is necessary to share information without consent such as:

- to gain consent would place the child at risk,
- by doing so will compromise a criminal investigation,
- it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent,
- or, if by sharing information it will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner, but it is not possible to gain consent.

There are also times when **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will not provide pupil's personal data where the serious harm test under legislation is met, (by sharing the information the child may be at further risk). When in doubt **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will seek legal advice.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable learners

The DSL and Deputy DSLs will regularly review and monitor those students who have been identified as vulnerable. This can include reviewing attendance data, behaviour data, attainment data and safeguarding records. This is to ensure that:

- Proportionate and early interventions can be taken to promote the safety and welfare of the child and prevent escalation of harm.
- Information about vulnerable learners is shared with teachers and the settings leadership staff to promote educational outcomes.
- Learners who currently have, or have had, a social worker will have their academic progress and attainment reviewed and additional academic support will be provided to help them reach their full potential.
- Reasonable adjustments are made in relation to setting-based interventions – for example responding to behaviour.

2.4 Multi-agency working

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre is a relevant agency in the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership and will work together with appropriate agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children including identifying and responding to their needs. This follows statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

Occasions that warrant a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989:

- If the child is in need under s.17 of the Children Act 1989 (including when a child is a young carer and or subject to a private fostering arrangement).
- Or if the child needs protection under s.47 of the Children Act 1989 where they are experiencing significant harm, or likely to experience significant harm.

Referrals in these cases should be made by the DSL (or Deputy DSLs) to Children's Social Care in the local authority in which that child resides. The list of safeguarding contact and other key agencies are listed in [Appendix B](#).

Where the child already has a social worker, the request for service should go immediately to the social worker involved or, in their absence, to their team manager. If the child is a child in care, notification should also be made to the [Hope Virtual School](#).

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will co-operate with any statutory safeguarding assessments conducted by children's social care: this includes ensuring representation at appropriate inter-agency meetings such as integrated support plan meetings, initial and review child protection conferences and core group meetings.

2.4.1 Additional considerations:

- Where a learner and/or their family is subject to an inter-agency child protection plan or a Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meeting, the setting will contribute to the preparation, implementation, and review of the plan as appropriate.
- In situations where a child in care may be put on a reduced timetable, the setting will consult with the Hope Virtual School following local procedures.
- If a crime has been suspected or committed that involved the bringing of an offensive weapon on to the settings site, the setting will liaise with the Local Authority Violence Reduction Unit (Safer Connections) who will consider a proportionate response.
- If there is a risk of harm, the police should be called via 999. For other concerns of criminality, the non-statutory guidance ['When to Call the Police' from the NPCC](#) can be helpful or contact your [Neighbourhood Policing Team](#).
- In the rare event that a child death occurs, or a child is seriously harmed, **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will notify the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership as soon as is reasonably possible.

2.5 Suspensions, permanent exclusions, and commissioning of Alternative Provisions

(to be read in conjunction with the Learning Behaviours Policy)

When the setting is considering suspending or permanently excluding a learner where additional vulnerability is identified it is important that the learner's welfare is a paramount consideration. The Headteacher will consider their legal duty of care when sending a learner home and should be alert to the need for early help for a child who:

- is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care
- has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from school or college or is in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit.

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will exercise their legal duties in relation to their interventions.

This includes:

- whether a statutory assessment should be considered in line with the principles of [Children Act 1989](#),
- that decisions are made in an anti-discriminatory manner in line with the [Equality Act 2010](#) (including having regard to the [SEND Code of Practice](#))
- and takes into consideration the learner's rights under the [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- Interventions will be consistent with statutory guidance [Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement](#)

2.5.1 - Actions to take

- An assessment of need should be undertaken with multi-agency partners with a view to mitigate any identified risk of harm this in line with [2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable learners](#).
- If the child is subject to a child protection plan or where there is an existing child protection file, we will call a multiagency risk-assessment meeting prior to making the decision to exclude.
- In the event of a one-off serious incident resulting in an immediate decision to exclude, the risk assessment *must* be completed prior to convening a meeting with the governing body.

2.5.2 - Commissioning Alternative Provisions

In the event where St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre commissions an alternative provision, the local [Alternative Learning Provision process](#) will apply and guidance followed to ensure clear agreement of roles and responsibilities to maintain safeguarding arrangements for children who are not taught on site. The Department of Education has issued two pieces of statutory guidance to which the setting must also have regard to when commissioning a provision:

- [Alternative Provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will continue to be responsible for the safeguarding of the child and will make necessary checks on the provider to meet the needs of the child. Reviews will be undertaken regularly to provide assurance that any child in the provision is regularly attending and that the placement continues to be safe and meets the child's need. Written confirmation from the alternative provider will be obtained of the checks on staff that we would otherwise perform for our own staff.

2.6 Children Missing from Education

A child missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect or exploitation, or maybe an indicator of need for early help support. Staff should follow procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. These should be reported to the DSL and reviewed in line with [2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable learners](#).

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will follow the guidance detailed in [Children Missing Education \(2016\)](#) and [Bristol City Council Education Welfare Service – Children Missing Education](#). This will include notifying the local authority in which the child lives:

- of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly,

- or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the local authority.

2.6.1 – Effective Home Education

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will notify the Local Authority of every learner where a parent has exercised their right to educate their child at home. Safeguarding files should be shared with the Local Authority Elective Home Education service and consideration of whether additional support from children's social care should be made in line with the Children Act 1989.

2.7 Respond to incidents of child-on-child abuse

(There is flow diagram in [Appendix B](#) that illustrates this section).

All staff should recognise that children can abuse other children (including online). It is important that incidents of abuse and harm are treated under safeguarding policy in conjunction with the behaviour policy. However, concerns regarding the welfare of children requires process and records to be kept on the child's safeguarding/child protection file.

Further examples of child-on-child harm this can be found under section [1.9 Key Safeguarding Areas](#). It is recognised that child-on-child abuse can happen inside and outside of setting or online.

At St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre

- We have a 'zero tolerance' approach to abuse. Incidents are taken seriously. These will never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter', 'just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up'. Banter and teasing can and should be acknowledged and recognised as bullying behaviour and may require proportionate intervention.
- Even with a zero-tolerance approach, we take steps to educate and take action to ensure we mitigate the risk of contributing to a culture of unacceptable behaviours or a culture that normalises abuse.
- It is understood that child-on-child harm may reflect equality issues in terms of those who may be targeted are more likely to have protected characteristics.
- Early identification of vulnerability to child-on-child harm is made by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment, and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.

There are clear systems in place (which are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible) for children to confidently report abuse knowing their concerns will be treated effectively as reflected in section [2.1 Reporting a concern](#) of this policy. **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will handle initial reports of harm by:

- Securing the immediate safety of children involved in an incident and sourcing support for other children affected.

- Listening carefully to the child, being non-judgmental, being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed, not asking leading questions and only prompting the child where necessary with open questions – where, when, what, etc.
- Ensuring that victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting any form of abuse or neglect, or exploitation. They will never be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Ensuring the child's wishes are taken into consideration in any intervention and any action is taken to ensure safety of the target and other members of the wider setting cohort.
- All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.
- Not promising confidentiality as it is highly likely that information will need to be shared with other professionals.

2.7.1 Actions to take in relation to sexual violence and sexual harassment

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will take the following actions when responding to incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment:

- Incidents will be reported immediately to the DSL/Deputy DSL who will undertake further assessment of what action should be taken proportionate to the factors that have been identified. Following training [The Brook - Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Assessment Tool](#) should be utilised to inform assessment of risk and what actions to subsequently take.
- DSL/Deputies will take **proportionate** action and consider whether a case can be managed internally, through early help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with the section [2.4 - Multi-Agency Working section](#).
- When an incident involves an act of **sexual violence** (rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault) the starting point is that this must be reported to the police immediately **regardless** of the age of criminal responsibility (10 years old). This must be reported directly via 101 for recording purposes and accountability. This is on the understanding that the police will take a welfarist approach rather than a criminal justice one. A concurrent referral to social care must also be. A strategy can be requested where education can voice explicitly concerns of criminalisation in a multi-agency context.
- When the children involved require a statutory assessment either under s.17 or s.47 of the Children Act 1989 a referral to social care should be undertaken.
- Where the report includes an online element, the setting will follow [Searching, screening and confiscation at school 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The key consideration is for staff not to view or forward illegal images of a child. The highlighted advice provides more details on what to do when viewing an image is unavoidable.
- Risk assessments and or safety plans will be developed for individual children who have been involved in an incident, including any bystanders. This should be reviewed

at least every 3 months or every time there is an occurrence of an incident. These should involve the child and parents/carers and address contextual risks.

2.7.2 - Contextual safeguarding approach to child-on-child abuse:

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by taking a contextual approach to safeguarding by increasing safety in the contexts of which harm can occur – this can include the settings environment itself, peer groups and the neighbourhood.

Following any incidents of child-on-child abuse, the DSL/Deputies will review and consider whether any practice or environmental changes can be made in relation to any lessons learned. This can include making changes to staffing and supervision, making changes to the physical environment and considering the utilisation and delivery of safeguarding topics on the curriculum.

2.8 Responding to allegations of abuse made against professionals

Staff must report any concerns or allegations about a professional's behaviour (including supply staff, volunteers, and contractors) where they may have:

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

2.8.1 - Immediate action that must be taken:

- **Do not** speak to the individual it concerns.
- Allegations or concerns about colleagues, supply staff, volunteers or contractors must be reported directly to the Headteacher who will follow guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part four: Safeguarding concerns and allegations made about staff, including supply teachers, volunteers, and contractors).
- The Head Teacher will inform the LADO of all allegations for advice prior to investigating the allegation, completing the LADO referral form within one day of becoming aware of the allegation.
- The LADO will offer advice on any immediate action required and will assist with employment and safeguarding issues.
- If, after your Initial Discussion with the LADO, it is agreed that the allegation meets the criteria, a multi-agency meeting may be convened and you will be invited. This might result in a criminal investigation, a social care investigation and/or an investigation to inform whether disciplinary action is required.
- If it is agreed that the allegation does not meet the criteria, the LADO will record the Initial Discussion. Any further action will be taken within the setting if necessary.
- If there is a conflict of interest which inhibits this process of reporting, staff can report directly to the LADO.

- If allegations are regarding a member of supply staff, the setting will take the lead and progress enquiries with the LADO, whilst continuing to engage and work with the employment agency.
- Allegations regarding foster carers or anyone in a position of trust working or volunteering with children should be referred to the LADO on the day that the allegation is reported. The allocated social worker should also be informed on the day. The setting should not undertake any investigation unless the LADO advises this.
- If the concern relates to Head Teacher it should be reported to the Chair of Governors, who will liaise with the [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#) and they will decide on any action required.

2.8.2 - Low level concerns

This should be read in conjunction with the staff code of conduct and Keeping children Safe in Education (Part 4). A low-level concern is not insignificant. This process should be used in events where a concern about professional conduct does not meet the threshold set out at the beginning of this section.

- Reports should be made in accordance with St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre own processes (see Staff Code of Conduct and Low Level Concerns Policy)
- St Philip's Marsh Nursery School/Cashmore Early Years Centre creates an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation.
- The DSL will address unprofessional behaviour and support the individual to correct it at an early stage providing a responsive, sensitive, and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised.
- Review and correct any deficits in the setting's safeguarding system.

2.9 Mental health and wellbeing (A flow diagram is available in [Appendix B](#) to illustrate this section)

Settings have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their learners. 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, and or may require early help support.

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will commit to undertake the following:

- The appointment of a senior mental health lead (the headteacher) who can support the development of knowledge and act as a point of expertise to promote the wellbeing and mental health of children. This colleague will have sufficient training in mental health and safeguarding for them to carry out their role effectively.
- Early identification of vulnerability to mental health problems by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment, and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.

- Ensure that children can report and share concerns in line with section [2.1 Reporting a concern](#) of this policy.
- Staff will follow a safeguarding process in terms of reporting concerns outlined in [Appendix B](#) so the DSL/Deputy DSLs (and wider members of the safeguarding team such as the SENDCo) can assess whether any other vulnerabilities can be identified and proportionate support considered.
- Staff will ensure the immediate health and safety of a child who is displaying acute mental health distress. This may require support from emergency services via 999 if the child is at risk of immediate harm.
- DSLs/Deputies will consider whether a case can be managed internally, through early help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with section [2.4- Multi-Agency Working](#).
- The setting will communicate and work with the learner and parents/carers to ensure that interventions are in the best interests of the child.
- DSLs will liaise with staff to ensure reasonable adjustments are made and develop ways to support achieving positive educational outcomes.
- Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem – DSLs and the senior leadership team should be able to access specialist advice through targeted services or through their locality [Primary Mental Health Specialists from Child and Family Consultation Services](#).

2.9.1 - Contextual safeguarding approach to mental health

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will ensure that preventative measures in terms of providing safeguarding on the curriculum will provide opportunities for learners to identify when they may need help, and to develop resilience.

The setting will take a 'whole setting' approach to:

- deliver high quality teaching around mental health and wellbeing on the curriculum.
- having a culture that promotes mental health and wellbeing
- having an environment that promotes mental health and wellbeing.
- making sure pupils and staff are aware of and able to access a range of mental health services.
- supporting staff wellbeing.
- being committed to pupil and parent participation.

2.10 Online Safety

Online safety is an integrated and interwoven theme with other safeguarding considerations. It is essential that the DSL takes a lead on ensuring that interventions are effective. This means coordinating support and engaging with other colleagues in the setting who may have more technological expertise such as the IT manager.

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre is committed to addressing online safety issues around content, contact, conduct and commerce. This includes:

- Ensuring that online safety is concerned in relevant policies and procedures.
- Online safety is interwoven in safeguarding training for staff and safeguarding on the curriculum for learners.
- Acknowledging that child-on-child harm can happen via mobile and smart technology between individuals and groups. This should be approached in the same process outlined in section 2.7 Responding to incidents of child-on-child abuse.
- Provision of education via remote learning will comply with current governmental advice [Providing remote education: guidance for schools - GOV.UK](#).
- The effectiveness of the setting's ability to safeguarding children in respect to filtering and monitoring, information security and access management alongside the above will be reviewed annually in line with the digital and technology standards in schools and colleges [Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Appendix A – Key Guidance for safeguarding issues

All key education sector policies relevant for education settings can be found on the following webpage <https://www.bristolsafeguardingineducation.org/guidance/>

Other **multi-agency** guidance and policies from the Local Safeguarding Partnerships:

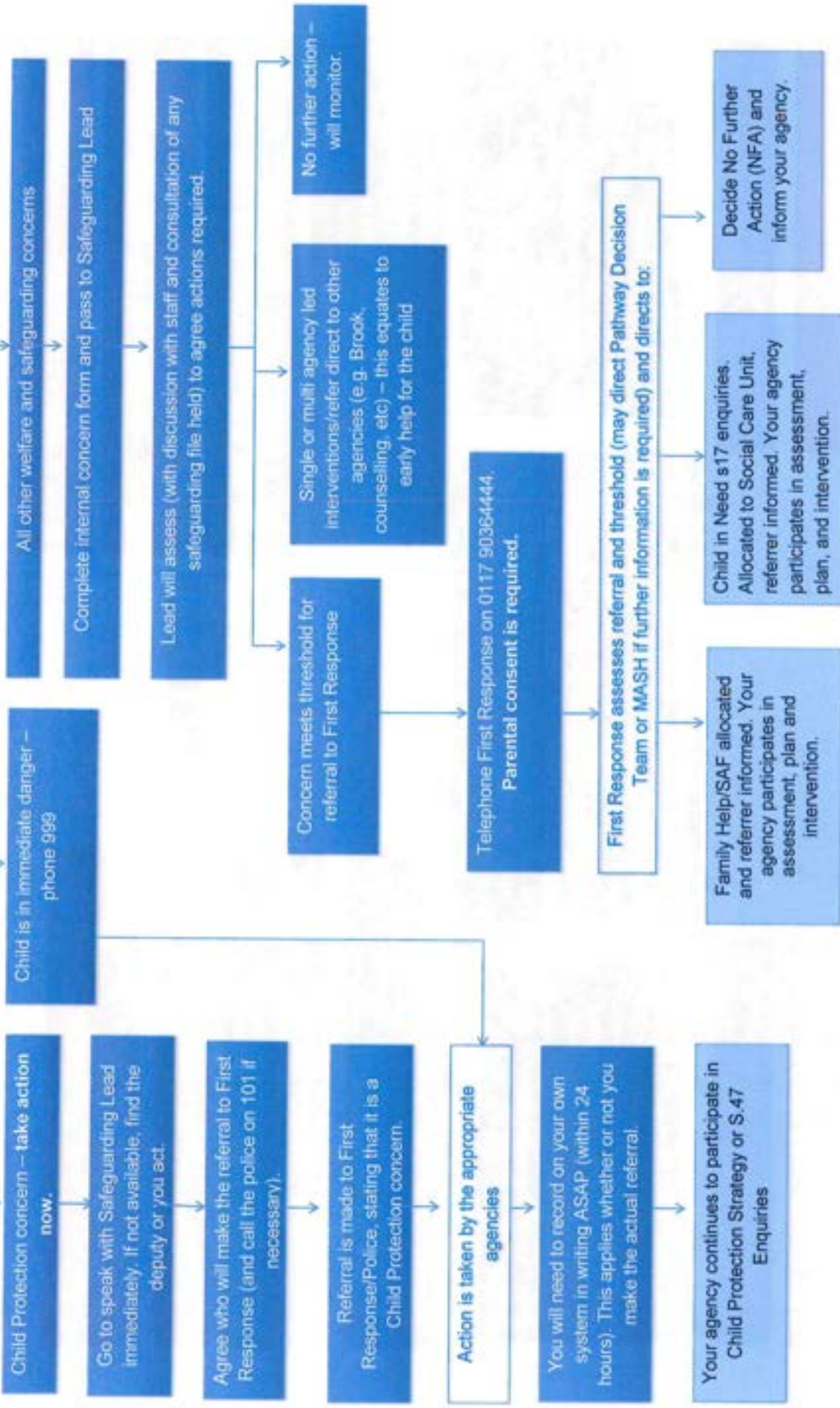
- For Bristol – [Bristol safeguarding children](#)
- For South Glos – [South Glos safeguarding children](#)

Appendix B – Reporting concerns

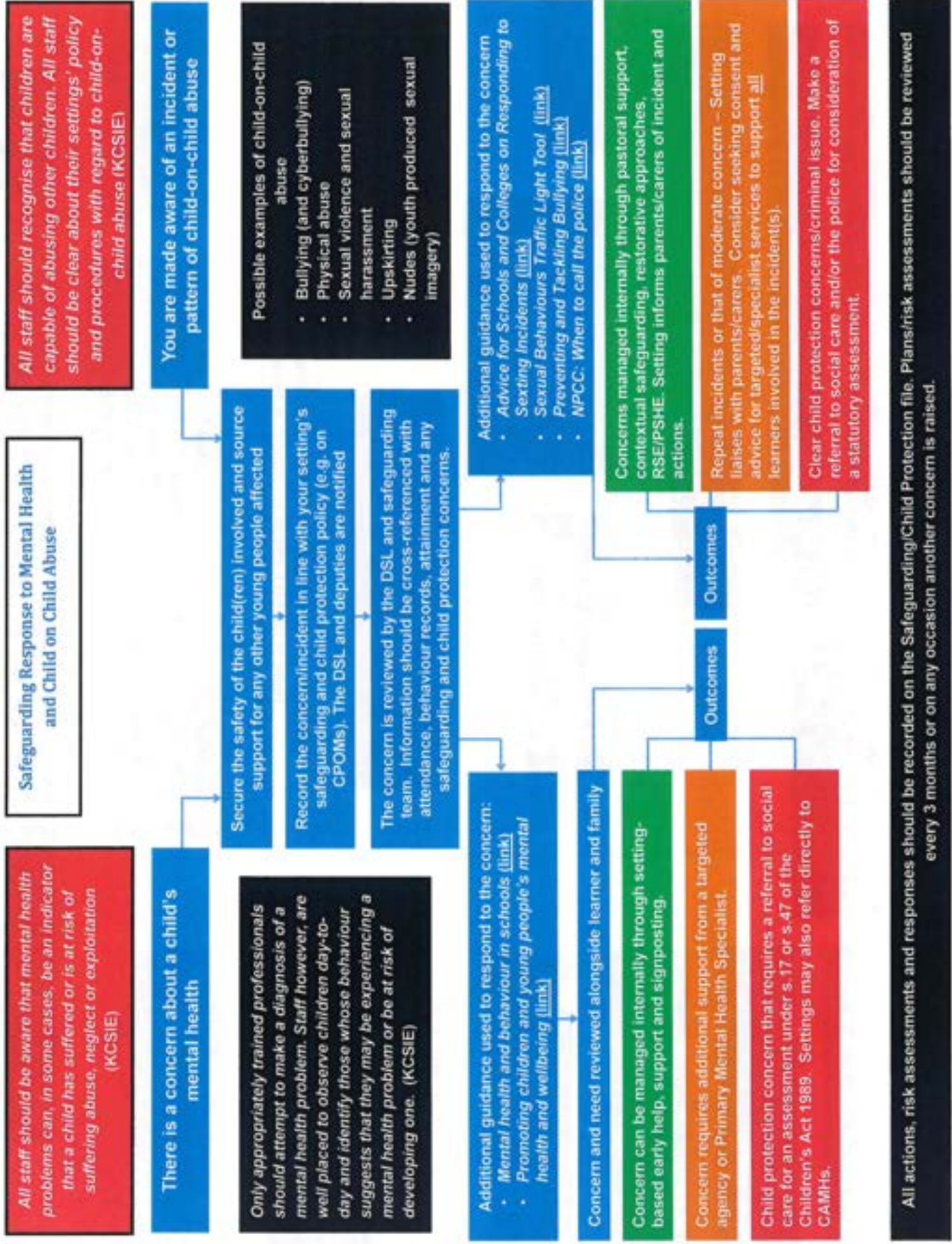
- Reporting Concerns Flow Chart – Bristol – [Click here](#)
- Process flow chart responding to child-on-child incidents and Mental Health Problems – [Click here](#)
- Multi-agency safeguarding contacts poster (Bristol) – [Click here](#)
- For wider local contacts use the following page - <https://www.bristolsafeguardingineducation.org/local-contacts/>
- Neighbouring Local Authority Contacts - [Click here](#)

Reporting Concerns Flow Chart - Bristol

You have concerns about a child



No matter what the outcome, keep monitoring, re-refer or escalate as appropriate. Participate in all assessments and plans. Chase referrals if not kept informed – this is our responsibility.



Multi-Agency Contacts

If you have concerns about a child/young person in Bristol ...

If a child is at immediate risk call the POLICE	POLICE 999	
To make a referral, i.e. a child is likely to suffer or is suffering significant harm, call children's social care.	FIRST RESPONSE + 0117 9036444	
Out of Hours Referrals	EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM - 01454 615 165	
Mental Health Crisis (24 hours, 7 days a week)	Bristol Mental Health – 0300 55 0334	
To raise concerns and ask for advice about radicalisation (also contact First Response).	PREVENT DUTY - 01278 647466 PreventSW@avonandsomerset.police.uk	
To liaise with the specialist Safeguarding Police unit	Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit (Avon and Somerset police) 01278 649228 LighthouseBristol@avonandsomerset.police.uk	
For advice and guidance about whether to make a referral	Family Help	
South 0117 9037770	East Central 0117 3576460	North 0117 3521499

If you have concerns about a professional working with a child...

To raise concerns and ask for guidance in relation to the conduct of someone who works with children	<u>Local Authority Designated Officer - (LADO)</u> T: 0117 9037795 KBSP LADO notification form
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For information, advice and guidance in relation to safeguarding policy and procedures.

<u>Safeguarding in Education Team</u>		
T: 0117 9222532 E: Safeguardingineducationteam@bristol.gov.uk		
South Advisor Helen Macdonald helen.macdonald@bristol.gov.uk 0117 9222533	East Central Advisor Vacant safeguardingineducationteam@bristol.gov.uk 01179222532	North Advisor Elizabeth Clark elizabeth.clark@bristol.gov.uk 01179222534
Child sexual exploitation	Operation Topaz (Avon and Somerset Police) https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/vul	

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Safer Connections		
Urgent Referrals and Threshold Advice: For all urgent referrals, requests for service (including Weapons and Drugs in Schools), and threshold advice, contact First Response: T: 0117 903 644		
Partnership Support: To request non-urgent, non-case specific support from the Partnership Team (such as consultations, training, or coordination around emerging concerns) E: saferconnections@bristol.gov.uk		
Report a Child Missing from Education	Bristol City Council – Education Welfare https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/children-missing-education-cme	
Children affected by Forced Marriage	Forced Marriage Unit T: (0) 20 7008 0151 E: fm@fco.gov.uk	
Online Safety Advice	Professional Online Safeguarding Helpline T: 0344 381 4772 E: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk	
Reporting online abuse and grooming	Child Exploitation and Online Protection command https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/	
FGM advice	NSPCC FGM Helpline T: 0800 028 3550 E: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk	
Domestic Abuse support (Bristol)	Directorate of local and national services https://www.bristol.gov.uk/crime-emergencies/abuse-violence	
Young Carers – advice and support	Carers Support Centre T: 0117 958 9980 W: https://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/young-carers/contact-young-carers/	
Whistleblowing professional policy	NSPCC Whistleblowing hotline T: 0800 028 0285 E: help@nspcc.org.uk	
Child and Adolescent Mental health (CAMHS)		
Primary Mental Health Specialists (advice) Child and Adolescent Mental Health		
South 0117 3408121	East Central 0117 3408600	North 0117 3546800
Advice around harmful sexualised behaviour	Be Safe 0117 3408700 W: https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/HSB-services/be-safe	
	Brook Traffic Light Tool CPD: Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool (RSE) Course	

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Other Local Authorities Contacts

Local Authority in which the child is resident	Contact details	Out of hours/ Weekend
South Gloucestershire	Access and Responses Team T: 01454 866000 - Monday to Thursday 9.00 – 5.00, 4.30 on Friday E: accessandresponse@southglos.gov.uk W: Access and Response Teams (ART) South Gloucestershire Council (southglos.gov.uk)	Emergency Duty Team 01454 615165
North Somerset	Single Point of Access T: 01275 888 808 – Monday-Thursday 8.45am-5pm, Friday 8.45am-4.30pm W: Children, young people and families North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk)	
Bath and North East Somerset (BANES)	Children's Social Work Services T: 01225 396312 or 01225 396313 Mon-Thurs 8:30am to 5pm, Friday 8:30am-4:30pm E: ChildCare_Duty@bathnes.gov.uk W: Report a concern about a child Bath and North East Somerset Council (bathnes.gov.uk)	

Appendix C - Dealing with a disclosure of abuse, neglect or exploitation

When a child tells me about abuse, neglect or exploitation they have suffered, what must I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger, or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell them you are pleased that they are speaking to you.
- Never promise confidentiality. Assure them that you will try to help but let the child know that you may have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information. Use 'Tell Me, Explain to me, Describe to me' (TED) questioning.
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that they have a right to be safe and protected.
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged perpetrator.
- Be aware that the child may retract what they have told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. Include any questions you may have asked. Do not add any opinions or interpretations.

NB It is not education staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

- The 5 'R's are helpful in understanding what professional's duties are in relation to responding to an incident.

Recognise – Respond – Reassure – Refer - Record

Appendix D - Types of abuse and neglect

Abuse and neglect are defined as the maltreatment of a child whereby someone may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

All setting staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another. For children with Special Educational Needs and

Disabilities (SEND) additional barriers can exist when identifying abuse and neglect, these include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploitation;
-
- being more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

To address these additional challenges, settings should consider extra pastoral support for children with SEND.

The following are the definition of abuse and neglect as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children, however, the ultimate responsibility to assess and define the type of abuse a child or young person may be subject to is that of the Police and Children's Services – our responsibility is to understand what each category of abuse is and how this can impact on the welfare and development of our children and where we have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of abuse and neglect (one or more categories can apply) to take appropriate action as early as possible.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

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

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as

overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to 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, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Appendix E - Specific actions to take on topical safeguarding issues

General or national guidance will not be included here. A summary of specific duties are in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) Annex B and access to local guidance can be found in [Appendix A](#) of this document.

In recognition that the threshold of child protection is 'likely to suffer' significant harm, **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** may need to make a referral to children's social care. Where possible, this will involve notifying the parent/carer if it does not place the learner at further risk of harm. In all other circumstances information will be shared in line with section [2.2 Information Sharing](#).

It is also important to recognise the importance of liaising with other education settings who may have siblings attending. It is likely that they may hold additional information which will support early identification of harm and in turn develop your assessment of need.

Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) – including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), county lines, online harm, modern slavery, child on child abuse

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will ensure that early help intervention is provided as soon as a concern of HOTH is identified. Consultation and advice will be sought from Local Authority and targeted services to consider the appropriate support available. The child and their families will be part of any planning and interventions.

- If there is evidence that a child is experiencing HOTH, **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will make a referral to First Response on 0117 903 6444.
- If there is intelligence or information which indicates that the child or group of children are at risk of or involved in criminality, **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will share information with the police via 101 or online via Avon and Somerset Police's online reporting form: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/vul>. This information will support proactive activity to disrupt criminal activity in relation to exploitation or harm outside the home more broadly.
- **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** will contact Safer Connections for inter-agency support, consultation, and advice about responding to HOTH and for guidance in implementing contextual safeguarding strategies to improve safety for vulnerable learners saferconnections@bristol.gov.uk.

Domestic Abuse

Operation Encompass is a national information sharing scheme where education settings are notified when the police are called to an incident of domestic abuse. This scheme enables **St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre** to take proactive action and make reasonable adjustments in relation to behaviour management and achieving positive educational outcomes.

Under the current information sharing protocol, the education setting is **not permitted** to share information without seeking consent from Avon and Somerset police in case this will put victims and children at further risk of harm. The only exception to this is when information is shared with new education setting (part of statutory duties in relation to transfer of the Safeguarding/Child Protection file, Keeping Children Safe in Education).

St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and Cashmore Early Years Centre will follow Bristol's Local Safeguarding Partnerships procedures when receiving and managing information through Operation Encompass. Our setting will promote an open culture of safeguarding to enable learners and families to disclose and feel safe to talk about their experiences and what support may be required.

Further information can be accessed through the Bristol City Council Safeguarding in Education Team webpages [Operation Encompass](#).

Female Genital Mutilation

Mandatory reporting duty: [Click here for government guidance](#)

This is a legal duty for all professionals undertaking teaching work to report known cases of FGM to the police via 101. This is when they:

1. are informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
2. observe physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out.

These cases must be referred to the DSL who will support them to carry out their duty. It is also advised any referrals made to the police under the mandatory reporting duty is followed up with children's social care so an assessment of need and support is concurrently considered.

Travel:

National guidance has highlighted going on holiday to a risk affected country is cause for concern, local guidance has been developed to prevent discriminatory action against families from risk affected communities.

- Families are encouraged to notify the education setting when they are looking to travel during term time dates.
- This will prompt a conversation with the DSL/specialist trained member of staff to discuss and explain what FGM is in that; it is significantly harmful and illegal to practice this.
- The setting will complete an [FGM Referral Risk assessment](#) (available on the [Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website](#)) with the family to identify any support that the family may require in relation to FGM.
- Proportionate action is taken. Referrals to social care should NOT be automatically made – however should be made if there are high risk concerns identified from the FGM Referral Risk Assessment.
- These assessments should be saved onto the child's Safeguarding/Child Protection file to avoid duplication with new incidents of travel.

Online Safety

- **Annex B of Keeping Children Safe in Education highlights additional actions schools should take to keep learners safe online.**
- For concerns around individual cases where a child has been harmed through online mediums, advice and guidance can be made through the **Professional Online Safeguarding Helpline**, T: 0344 381 4772, E: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
- Where there have been established cases of online abuse or grooming, the setting should alert - [Child Exploitation and Online Protection command \(CEOP\)](#)

Mental health – [linked to section within main body of this policy](#)

Serious Youth Violence

To be read in conjunction with the above section around Child Criminal Exploitation. There has been local guidance issued on the issue of [Offensive Weapons in Education Settings Guidance for Education Settings](#)

It is important to note that should a weapon be used or there is threat of use, the police should be called immediately.

- The same day a weapon is found Safer Options should be called for a multi-disciplinary assessment of risk. A Safer Connections Advisor will determine whether the young person meets the criteria for the 'Weapons in Schools Pathway' and coordinate the response with the Police and Youth Justice Service. If the criteria for a Weapons in School intervention is not met (in situations where there is evidence of threat or direct harm), a Safer Connections Advisor will support the school to take the appropriate measures for reporting and mitigating ongoing risk.
- Whilst it is acknowledged that the decision to exclude remains with the Headteacher it is recommended that consultation with the Safer Options Team is made so as not to further put the child at further risk of harm if they are excluded.
- Alternatives to exclusions should be considered first in recognition that by doing so a learner it may be at further risk of harm out in the community.
- Police will be notified through the multi-agency discussion held at the 'Out of Court Disposals Panel' to prevent students unnecessarily getting a criminal record.

Preventing Radicalisation - The Prevent duty

All settings are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

The Prevent duty should be seen as part of the settings' wider safeguarding obligations. Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the revised [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#), especially paragraphs 57-76, which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare).

The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes:

- risk assessment,
- working in partnership,
- staff training, and
- IT policies.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child:

- under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled)
- by someone other than a parent or close relative (*Close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and stepparents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.)
- with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

Cases of private fostering arrangements must be reported to children's social care to ensure that needs are adequately made.

Statutory guidance states that this should be done at least 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to start or as soon as you are made aware of the arrangements. Not to do so is a criminal offence.

Further support and reasonable adjustments should be made by the education setting to promote achievement of positive educational outcomes.

Young Carers

A young carer is a person under 18 who regularly provides emotional and/or practical support and assistance for a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally unwell or who misuses substances.

The setting will support learners who are young carers to appropriate support. To find out what is available locally visit the Bristol City Council Website -

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/social-care-health/support-for-young-carers>

The Carers Support Centre can undertake an assessment of need and provide bespoke support. For further information and to make a referral visit

<https://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/young-carers/making-a-referral/>.

Children from Forced Migration

Children with a forced migration background may be more vulnerable to criminal or sexual exploitation or may have been trafficked. It is important that staff understand what signs to look out for and understand the [National Referral Mechanism](#) procedures. There are other specific safeguarding issues relating to this group for example adultification, age assessments, No Recourse to Public Funds, and coming from countries where practices such as underage or forced marriage or FGM may be more prevalent.

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The setting will support staff to develop and embed a proactive whole school anti-racist approach and adopt a trauma informed approach when supporting these children and their families.

There are a range of specialist support services available in the city that can be accessed. For further information visit [Resources for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Bristol - Bristol City of Sanctuary](#).

Appendix F – COVID 19 Addendum Policy in the event of lockdown

Child Protection and Safeguarding: COVID-19 addendum

**St Philip's Marsh Nursery School and
Cashmore Early Years Centre**



Approved by: Headteacher

Date: 07/10/2023

Next review due by: As required

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Important contacts

Role	Name	Contact details
Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)	Charlotte Carter (Headteacher)	0117 9776171 head.st.philips.marsh.n@bristol-schools.uk charlotte.carter@bristol-schools.uk
Deputy DSLs	Sharon Cutler (School Business Manager)	0117 9776171 s.cutler@bristol-schools.uk
	Emmeline James (Inclusion Lead)	0117 9776171 Emmeline.james@bristol-schools.uk
	Clare Morton (Deputy Head Teacher)	0117 3534295 Clare.morton@stpmns.co.uk
Headteacher	Charlotte Carter	0117 9776171 head.st.philips.marsh.n@bristol-schools.uk charlotte.carter@bristol-schools.uk
Local authority designated officer (LADO)		0117 9037795
Chair of governors	Enza Phillips	07812381897

1. Scope and definitions

This addendum would apply in the event of a school closure due to COVID-19, and reflects updated advice from the Local Authority (LA).

It sets out changes to our normal child protection policy and would be updated to reflect [Coronavirus: safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers](#) guidance.

Unless covered here, our normal child protection policy continues to apply.

The Department for Education's (DfE's) definition of 'vulnerable children' includes those who:

Have a social worker, including children:

With a child protection plan

Assessed as being in need

Looked after by the local authority

Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

2. Core safeguarding principles

We will still have regard to the statutory safeguarding guidance, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

We still follow these important safeguarding principles:

The best interests of children must come first

If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately

A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy should be available at all times (see section 4 for details of our arrangements)

It's essential that unsuitable people don't enter the school workforce or gain access to children

Children should continue to be protected when they are online

3. Reporting concerns

All staff and volunteers must continue to act on any concerns they have about a child immediately. It is still vitally important to do this.

Any concerns should be reported immediately to the DSL (or a Deputy DSL) who will act upon any concerns in the usual manner.

As a reminder, all staff should continue to work with and support children's social workers, where they have one, to help protect vulnerable children.

4. DSL (and deputy) arrangements

We aim to have a trained DSL or deputy DSL on one site wherever possible. Details of all important contacts are listed in the 'Important contacts' section at the start of this addendum.

If our DSL (or deputy) can't be in school, they can be contacted via phone or email.

If the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are not available then school staff and governors will be informed by email or work WhatsApp group as to who will be the DSL (or deputy) on any given day, and how to contact them.

We will ensure that DSLs (and deputies), wherever their location, know who the most vulnerable children in our school are.

On occasions where there is no DSL or deputy on site, a senior leader will take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding. This will be Charlotte Carter (charlotte.carter@bristol-schools.uk or 0117 3534295)

The senior leader will be responsible for liaising with the DSL (or deputy) to make sure they (the senior leader) can:

Identify the most vulnerable children in school

Update and manage access to child protection files, where necessary

Liaise with children's social workers where they need access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments

Carry out home visits (safely and following government guidelines on social distancing) – staff **WOULD NOT** enter the home just a visual welfare check.

5. Working with other agencies

We will continue to work with children's social care, and with virtual school heads for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

We will continue to update this addendum where necessary, to reflect any updated guidance from:

- DFE and;
- The Local Authority about children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children's social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need

6. Monitoring attendance

As most children will not be attending school during a period of school closure, we will not complete our usual attendance registers or follow our usual procedures to follow up on non-attendance.

The exception to this is where any child we expect to attend school during the closure doesn't attend, or stops attending. In these cases we will:

Follow up on their absence with their parents or carers, by phoning in the first instance and then home visit if contact cannot be made.

Notify their social worker, where they have one

Use the Department for Education's daily online attendance form (if available) to keep an accurate record of who is attending school and also complete any registers requested by the Local Authority.

We will ensure that we have up-to-date emergency contact details, and additional contact details where possible.

7. Concerns about a staff member or volunteer

We will continue to follow the principles set out in part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Staff should continue to act on any concerns they have immediately.

We will continue to refer adults who have harmed or pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will continue to refer potential cases of teacher misconduct to the Teaching Regulation Agency. We will do this using the email address Misconduct.Teacher@education.gov.uk for the duration of the COVID-19 period, in line with government guidance.

8. Support for children who aren't 'vulnerable' but where we have concerns

We have the option to offer places in school to children who don't meet the Department for Education's definition of 'vulnerable', but who we have safeguarding concerns about. We will work with parents/carers to do this. We have used the following criteria to identify children:

- Children in Care
- Children with a Protection Plan
- Children in Need
- Other children with Social Care involvement or previous social care involvement
- Parents with Mental Health Difficulties/Stress including Homelessness
- Children affected by DVA

- Parent currently in prison
- NAS funding or no recourse
- SEND (including EHCPs)

If these children will not be attending school, we will put a contact plan in place, as explained in section 10.1 below. We also have a risk assessment in place which should

9. Safeguarding for children not attending school

9.1 Contact plans

Contact plans in place for children with a social worker and children who we have safeguarding concerns about, for circumstances where:

They won't be attending school (for example where the school, parent/carer and social worker, if relevant, have decided together that this wouldn't be in the child's best interests); or

They would usually attend but have to self-isolate

These plans set out:

How often the school will make contact

Which staff member(s) will make contact

How they will make contact

What to do in the event that staff are unable to make contact

We have agreed these plans with children's social care where relevant, and will review them weekly.

If we can't make contact, we will carry out home visits for visual check, contact social worker or police if we feel a child is at immediate risk of harm.

9.2 Safeguarding all children

Staff and volunteers are aware that this difficult time potentially puts all children at greater risk.

Staff and volunteers will continue to be alert to any signs of abuse, or effects on pupils' mental health that are also safeguarding concerns, and act on concerns immediately. In particular, children are likely to be spending more time online (see section 10 below).

10. Online safety

10.1 In school

We will continue to have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place in school.

10.2 Outside school

Where staff are interacting with children online, they will continue to follow our existing staff code of conduct/IT acceptable use policy.

Staff will continue to be alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm online, and act on any concerns immediately, following our reporting procedures as set out in section 3 of this addendum.

10.3 Working with parents and carers

We will make sure parents and carers:

Are aware of the potential risks to children online and the importance of staying safe online

Know what our school is asking children to do online, including what sites they will be using and who they will be interacting with from our school

Are aware that they should only use reputable online companies or tutors if they wish to supplement the remote teaching and resources our school provides

Know where else they can go for support to keep their children safe online

11. Mental health

We can signpost all pupils, parents and staff to other resources to support good mental health at this time.

Staff have access to Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) and this information is shared regularly.

12. Staff recruitment, training and induction

12.1 Recruiting new staff and volunteers

We continue to recognise the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers who work in our school are safe to work with children.

We will continue to follow our safer recruitment procedures, and part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

In urgent cases, when validating proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check, we will initially accept verification of documents via online video link, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents. This approach is in line with revised guidance from the DBS.

New staff must still present the original documents when they first attend work at our school.

We will continue to do our usual checks on new volunteers, and do risk assessments to decide whether volunteers who aren't in regulated activity should have an enhanced DBS check, in accordance with paragraphs 167-172 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

12.2 Staff 'on loan' from other schools - N/A AT PRESENT

We will assess the risks of staff 'on loan' working in our school, and seek assurance from the 'loaning' school that staff have had the appropriate checks. These checks will be carried out by the School Business Manager.

We will also use the DBS Update Service, where these staff have signed up to it, to check for any new information.

12.3 Safeguarding induction and training

We will make sure staff and volunteers are aware of changes to our procedures and local arrangements.

New staff and volunteers will continue to receive:

A safeguarding induction

A copy of our children protection policy (and this addendum)

Keeping Children Safe in Education part 1

We will decide on a case-by-case basis what level of safeguarding induction staff 'on loan' need. In most cases, this will be:

Confirmation of local processes

Confirmation of DSL arrangements

12.4 Keeping records of who is on site

We will keep a record of which staff are on site each day, and that appropriate checks have been carried out for them.

We will continue to keep our single central record up to date.

We will record:

Everyone working or volunteering in our school each day, including staff 'on loan'

Details of any risk assessments carried out on staff and volunteers on loan from elsewhere

13. Children attending other settings – N/A at present

Where children are temporarily required to attend another setting, we will make sure the receiving school is provided with any relevant welfare and child protection information.

Wherever possible, our DSL (or deputy) and/or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) will share, as applicable:

The reason(s) why the child is considered vulnerable and any arrangements in place to support them

The child's EHC plan, child in need plan, child protection plan or personal education plan

Details of the child's social worker

Details of the virtual school head

Where the DSL, deputy or SENCO can't share this information, the senior leader(s) identified in section 4 will do this.

We will share this information before the child arrives as far as is possible, and otherwise as soon as possible afterwards.

14. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed as guidance is updated and will also be reviewed in the event of a future lockdown by the Head Teacher. Any reviews, will be approved by the full governing board, this may be done via email.

15. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Staff code of conduct

IT Acceptable Use Policy

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Policy

