




Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Leehurst Swan School

fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding and child protection

Approved By:	
Headteacher	
Chair of Governors	In the absence of a Chair of Governors, this policy has been sent to Wiltshire Safeguarding.
Last Review	30/08/2025
Ratified by Governors	In the absence of a Chair of Governors, this policy has been sent to Wiltshire Safeguarding.
Published	02/09/2025
Next Review	By 01/09/2026

The key safeguarding responsibilities within each of the roles above are set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)

Key Safeguarding Personnel:	All DSL trained
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Rob Maddison
Headteacher	Clive Marriott
Deputy Head	Bridget Wright
Head of T&L and SENCo	Sarah Imms
Head of Upper School	Sam Collins
Head of Middle School	Tommie Gross
Head of Lower School	Jasmine Veratau
Designated Teacher for LAC	Clive Marriott
Senior Mental Health Lead	Clive Marriott

Key Safeguarding Contacts:	
Duty Leader (7.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday) (Termtime Only)	safeguarding@leehurstswan.org.uk
Out of Hours (6.00pm to 7.30am Monday to Friday) (Weekends and Holidays)	Police: 999 Integrated Front Door: 0300 456 0108 IFD Out of Hours: 0300 456 0100

If you believe a child is **at immediate risk** of significant harm or injury, you **must** call the police on **999**

Introduction

Leehurst Swan School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We will fulfil our local and national responsibilities as laid out in the following key documents:

- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2025\)](#)
- Non-statutory interim guidance: COVID – 19: safeguarding schools, colleges and other providers
- The procedures of the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (formerly WSCB)
- Information sharing – [Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers \(2024\)](#)
- [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(the CTSA 2015\)](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1988](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)

- [Education Act 2002](#)
- [Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#)
- [EYFS framework](#)
- [Teacher Standards](#)
- [Home Office Serious Violence Strategy](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#)
- [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)
- [National Police Chief's Council guidance for schools](#)
- [Use of reasonable force in schools -](#)

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure:

- all our pupils are safe and protected from harm.
- safeguarding procedures are in place to help pupils to feel safe and learn to stay safe.
- adults in the school community are aware of the expected behaviours and the school's legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and child protection.

Scope

The purpose of the whole-school Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy is to provide clear direction to staff and others about expected codes of behaviour in dealing with safeguarding/child protection issues. KCSiE (2025) is statutory guidance from the DfE, and all staff must comply with it and this Safeguarding policy.

Safeguarding children 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 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

The term 'safeguarding children' covers a range of measures including child protection procedures. It encompasses a preventative approach to keeping children safe that incorporates pupil health and safety; school behaviour management and preventing child-on-child abuse; supporting pupils with medical conditions; Relationships, Sex and Health (RSHE) education and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education; providing first aid and site security.

Consequently, this policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by the governors and should be read alongside the following policies relevant to the safety and welfare of our pupils:

- Relationships, Sex and Health Education/PSHE

- Online safety policy
- Behaviour policy, including pupil use of mobile and smart technology and measures to prevent bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based bullying and discriminatory bullying)
- Staff Behaviour Policy and Staff Code of Conduct
- Complaints policy
- Health and safety policy
- Equality Statement
- Administration of medicines
- Whistleblowing policy
- Teaching and Learning policy
- SEND policy
- Anti-Bullying policy

This policy applies to the whole school (including EYFS) and is available on the school website for parents to access.

For the purposes of this policy:

- **DSL** refers to the Designated Safeguarding and any other staff trained to DSL level in the Safeguarding Team.
- **Staff** refers to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, in a paid or regular voluntary capacity.
- **A volunteer** is a person who performs an activity that involves spending time, unpaid in school (except for approved expenses).
- **Parent** refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example stepparents, foster carers and adoptive parents.
- **Child** refers to all children on our school roll and any child, under the age of 18, who comes into contact with our school. This includes unborn babies.

Any safeguarding concerns or disclosures of abuse relating to a child at school or outside of school hours and online are within the scope of this policy.

Expectations

All staff are:

- familiar with the safeguarding policy and have an opportunity to contribute to its review.
- alert to signs and indicators of possible abuse.
- aware of the importance of professional curiosity
- able to record and report concerns as set out in this policy.
- able to deal with a disclosure of abuse from a child.
- Involved in the implementation of individual educational programmes, integrated support plans, child in need plans and interagency child protection plans as required.

In addition, all staff have read and understood Part 1 or Annex A of the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE 2025). The DSL will issue quizzes to staff on a regular basis to help ensure compliance. School leaders and staff who work directly with children have also read Annex B, Annex F and Part 5.

Governors

As key strategic decision makers and vision setters for the school, the governors will make sure that our policies and procedures are in line with national and local safeguarding requirements. Governors will work with senior leaders to make sure the following safeguarding essentials are in place and that appropriate action can be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare:

Training/Teaching	Policy/Procedures	Key safeguarding roles
Whole school approach to broad and balanced curriculum embedding safeguarding teaching.	Child-on-child abuse	Designated Safeguarding Lead (who is a member of the school's senior leadership team)
DSL training	Pupil voice	
Designated teacher training	Online safety	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
KCSiE 2025 Part 1 or Annex A (and Annex B and Part 5 for staff working directly with children)	Whistleblowing	
Staff training, including regular safeguarding updates	Staff Behaviour Policy (for safer working practice), incl. low-level concerns about staff conduct	Designated teacher for children looked-after (even if there are no LAC on roll)
Children taught about keeping safe online	Staff Code of Conduct	Senior mental health lead
Online safety training for staff	Early help	Pastoral and well-being staff
	Mental Health	Nominated governor for whistleblowing
		Nominated governor for filtering

Preventing radicalisation	Multi-agency working	and monitoring online safety
Teaching staff confidence to deliver RSHE/PSHE to all pupils	Children who are absent and/or missing from education	Filtering and monitoring and online safety lead
Annual review of online safety arrangements	Children with SEND and a physical health issue	Lead governor for attendance
	Reporting abuse, incl. dealing with a child at immediate risk/SVPP* procedures	Senior attendance champion
	Honour based abuse (HBA)	
	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	
	Behaviour Policy	
	Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy	
	Staff contribution to policy	
	Safeguarding policy review	

*Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership

Concerns and allegations management

Our chair of governors is responsible for liaising with the Local Authority Designated Officer for allegations (LADO) and other partner agencies in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against the Headteacher. *(In the absence of a Chair of Governors, this policy has been sent to Wiltshire Safeguarding.)*

See also 'Managing concerns and allegations against staff'.

Audit

The nominated governor (NG) for safeguarding collaborates with the Headteacher and the DSL to complete the annual safeguarding audit return to the local authority.

Child Protection Files

The governing body should ensure that child protection files are maintained by the DSL as set out in Annex C of KCSiE 2025 (Para 102)

Safer Recruitment

Our governors monitor the school's safer recruitment practice, including scrutiny around DSL and /or headteacher monitoring of the Single Central Record. Please refer to the school's [Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy](#).

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher ensures that the policies and procedures, adopted by the governing body (particularly those concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect), are understood, and followed by all staff and should be easily understood by staff, children and parents, by re-visiting regularly.

The Headteacher reports at least three times per year to the governors around the effectiveness of the school's safeguarding procedures, and in particular, child-on-child incidents, including all aspects of trend analysis. The school's approach to online safety and filtering and monitoring is reviewed annually as a minimum.

Governors ensure that safeguarding is an agenda item for every full governing body meeting.

The Headteacher ensures that safeguarding is an agenda item for every staff meeting. This policy is reviewed annually or earlier as required by changes to legislation or statutory guidance or as safeguarding issues emerge so that the school can respond to lessons learnt.

The nominated governor meets the DSL every half-term (six times a year) to monitor the effectiveness of this policy.

Mandatory Procedure – staff and adults at school

Safer recruitment

All staff are subject to safer recruitment processes and checks, and we follow the guidance set out in Part 3 of KCSiE (2025).

At Leehurst Swan, we scrutinise all applications for paid or voluntary posts. We undertake interviews and make appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). We maintain a single central record (SCR) of the essential checks as set out in KCSiE (2025), that have been carried out and certificates obtained.

The SCR applies to:

- all staff (including supply staff, and teacher trainees on salaried routes) who work at the school.
- all governors

Assurances are sought for contractors who are required on site, including identification checks on arrival. Appropriate vetting checks are carried out by the school for self-employed individuals.

Visitors

All visitors complete a signing in/out form, wear a school ID badge and are provided with key safeguarding information including the contact details of safeguarding personnel in school. In all circumstances the visitor will be supervised. Scheduled visitors in a professional role (e.g. fire officer, police, NSPCC staff) are asked to provide evidence of their role and employment details (usually an identity badge) upon arrival at school.

Careful consideration is given to the suitability of any external organisations. Leehurst Swan School completes an assessment of the education value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered by the scheduled visitor prior to booking a visit.

If the visit is unscheduled and the visitor is unknown to the school, we will contact the relevant organisation to verify the individual's identity, if necessary.

Site safety

Risk assessments are undertaken and maintained in accordance with the school's health and safety policy. The school ensures that when our premises are hired or rented to other organisations (e.g. Music Makers, evening and weekend clubs) including shared site providers who work with children, those organisations adhere to the guidance for out of school settings.

Off site visits and exchange visits

We carry out a risk assessment prior to any off-site visit and designate the specific roles and responsibilities of each adult, whether employed or volunteers. We seek written assurances from any alternative provision provider that appropriate safer recruitment checks have been completed, and safeguarding policy and procedures are in place. A site visit is also completed by the DSL and/or SENCO where practical. Where there are safeguarding concerns or allegations that happen offsite, staff will follow the procedures described above and in the [SVPP flowcharts](#) as appropriate. A copy of the flowcharts is taken on off-site visits for reference.

Any adult over 18 in a host family based within the UK will be subject to DBS checks. We work with partner schools abroad to ensure that similar assurances are undertaken prior to any overseas visit by our pupils.

See also Training.

Staff Behaviour Policy to be read alongside the Staff Code of Conduct (for safer working practices)

Leehurst Swan is committed to positive academic, social and emotional outcomes for our pupils underpinned by a strong safeguarding ethos. We are equally committed to the protection and welfare of our staff, who are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professional behaviour.

The Staff Behaviour Policy sets out staff behaviours that should be avoided as well as those that constitute safe practice and supports our commitment to safeguarding children.

Leehurst Swan School rejects all forms of corporal punishment.

Teaching staff are additionally expected to act within the guidance of the 'personal and professional conduct' section of the Teachers' Standards.

Identifying the signs

All staff know how to recognise and are alert to the signs of neglect, abuse, exploitation and wider safeguarding issues, including but not limited to child-on-child sexual violence and harassment, child-on-child abuse and exploitation, all risks of harm outside the home and within the local area including online. They are aware that children may not feel ready to know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. Definitions of abuse, set out in 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - Advice for practitioners' (2015), 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2025) along with notes from safeguarding training, are important reference documents for all staff. Every member of staff is provided with a copy of Part 1 or Annex A of KSCiE which they are required to read and understand, and which also includes supporting guidance about several specific safeguarding issues. Staff who work directly with children are also required to read and understand Annex B and Part 5 of KCSiE (2025)

Responding to concerns/disclosures of abuse

The flowcharts provided by Wiltshire Council Safeguarding Team and SVPP set out the required procedure for staff to follow when they have a safeguarding concern about a child.

These diagrams are regularly updated as prompted by a change in legislation or advice. They are available to all staff electronically and displayed in the staffroom and adult cloakrooms for easy reference.

Staff adhere to the organisation's safeguarding training requirements when concerned about abuse or when responding to a disclosure of abuse. Staff understand that they must NOT:

- take photographs of any injuries.
- postpone or delay the opportunity for the child to talk.
- take notes while the child is speaking or ask the child to write an account.
- try to investigate the allegation.
- promise confidentiality e.g. to say they will keep 'the secret'.

- approach or inform the alleged abuser.

All staff record any concern about or disclosure by a pupil of abuse or neglect and report this to the DSL by adding the incident on CPOMS and categorising it as a cause of concern (See Annex E) or by using the standard 'Welfare Concern Form' (see Annex D). It is the responsibility of each adult in school to ensure that the DSL receives the record of concern without delay. In the absence of the DSL, staff members know to speak directly to the Integrated Front Door (IFD). In some circumstances, the DSL or member of staff seeks advice by ringing the IFD for advice.

The DSL will liaise with safeguarding partners and work with other agencies in line with [Working Together \(2023\)](#) and will refer to [National Police Chief's Council guidance for schools](#) to understand when they should consider calling the police.

The D/DDSL will collate as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and enable a contextual approach to address such harm.

The DSL consistently monitors all children with concerns, whether a request for service to the Wiltshire IFD or appropriate Local Authority Children's Services has been made or not. During term time, the DSL or a DDSL is always available during school hours for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

The voice of the child is central to our safeguarding practice and pupils are encouraged to express and have their views given due weight in all matters affecting them.

Online safety

Please refer to the school's Online Safety policy for specific safety procedures and protocols which has been reviewed in accordance with KCSiE 2025 (para 134-137).

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable but can be categorised into four areas of risk (KCSiE 2025):

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

Online safety is a running and interrelated theme which is reflected in our policies and procedures. Children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. Online safety is considered as part of our whole school safeguarding approach and wider staff training (including at induction) and curriculum planning. A personalised or contextual approach is taken for more vulnerable children, victims of abuse and some children with SEND.

Leehurst Swan School ensures that parents and carers are made aware of what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and be clear who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. Parents and carers are offered advice and guidance in support of identifying the risks that may be present to children online often through National Online Safety guidance posters attached to the weekly bulletin.

Leehurst Swan School acknowledges the fact many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks, the school will follow its policy on the use of mobile and smart technology in school to safeguard children and will follow child-on-child abuse procedures when mobile phones are used by a child in school to bully or sexually harass their peers via their mobile and smart technology, share indecent images: consensually and non-consensually (often via large chat groups), and view and share pornography and other harmful content. The school adheres to the DFE Filtering and Monitoring standards, and the Cyber Security Standards set out in KCSiE (2025).

Our online safety mechanisms are monitored and logged in line with the school's [web filtering and monitoring flowchart](#). Records are routinely reviewed annually by Governors and following a breach or failure of filtering mechanisms.

Internet access on site

Mobile phones with internet access (3G, 4G, or 5G) must have parental controls enabled at school. Year 5, 6 and senior pupils' hand in their phone during morning registration. The phone is returned at the end of the day. The school is not responsible for the safety of the phone.

Staff should refer to the school's [Staff Code of Conduct](#) regarding the use of mobile phones.

Pupils can access the internet through school PCs and from a laptop or iPad via the school Wi-Fi. Internet safety is a prime consideration, and the school uses the filtering system, Opendium UTM, and monitors usage.

EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones into the EYFS.

Parents and visitors are not permitted to use cameras or other devices to take photographs or images in the EYFS setting. In EYFS and Prep, digital images may only be captured on school devices.

Managing concerns and allegations against staff (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors and those from organisations or individuals using the school premises) Leehurst Swan follows the procedure set out by the SVPP 'Allegations against adults' flowchart, which is made available to all staff electronically and displayed in the staffroom and adult cloakrooms for easy reference.

Where anyone in the school has a concern about the behaviour of an adult (including online) who works or volunteers at the school, including supply staff and contractors, and those from organisations or individuals using the school premises, they must immediately consult the Headteacher who will refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer for allegations (LADO).

Any concern or allegation against the Headteacher will be reported to the Chair of Governors without informing the Headteacher. *(In the absence of a Chair of Governors, any concerns or allegations against the Headteacher will be referred to Wiltshire Safeguarding.)*

All staff must remember that the welfare of a child is paramount and must not delay raising a concern for fear that raising this concern could jeopardise their colleague's career.

Leehurst Swan promotes an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about adults working in or on behalf of the school (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Any allegation of abuse will be dealt with in a fair and consistent way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is the subject of the allegation.

In addition to the concern/allegation management process, the school's DSL will also refer suspected abuse to the Wiltshire IFD or appropriate Local Authority Children's services as described in 'responding to a concern'.

All members of staff and volunteers have read and signed to confirm they have understood the school's Staff Code of Conduct (for safer working practice) and the Staff Behaviour Policy; all supply staff and contractors are made aware of expectations of their behaviour.

Concerns and allegations reported relating to supply staff and contractors will be notified to their employers for investigation and potential referral to LADO.

Leehurst Swan will appoint a 'case manager' to lead any investigation where the reported allegation does not meet the threshold to consider a referral to the LADO. This is the Headteacher or where the Headteacher is the subject of an allegation, the Chair of Governors. *(In the absence of a Chair of Governors, any concerns or allegations against the Headteacher will be referred to Wiltshire Safeguarding.)*

Managing low-level concerns about adults

Leehurst Swan operates a 'low-level' concerns policy in accordance with KCSiE. 'Low-level' refers to behaviour that is: inconsistent with expectations set out in the Staff Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, and/or does not meet the allegations threshold, or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

All low-level concerns will be reported to the Headteacher, low-level concerns about the Headteacher will be reported to the Chair of Governors. *(In the absence of a Chair of Governors, any concerns or allegations against the Headteacher will be referred to Wiltshire Safeguarding.)*

Leehurst Swan will:

- ensure all staff are clear about what appropriate behaviour is (as set out in the Safeguarding Staff Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct) and are confident in distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour, in themselves and others.
- empower staff to share any low-level safeguarding concerns.
- provide a responsive, sensitive and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised, for both child/ren and the adult; and,
- respond to reports of low-level concerns in accordance with our HR conduct procedures by addressing unprofessional behaviour and support the individual to correct it at an early stage. If the concern has been raised via a third party, the Headteacher will collect as much evidence as possible by speaking:
 - o directly to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been made anonymously.
 - o to the individual concerned and any witnesses.

Reporting low-level concerns helps to create and embed a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which the school's values and expected behaviour are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.

Staff are encouraged to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below expected professional standards.

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing, retained and reviewed to help recognize any weakness in the school's safeguarding system so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

Whistleblowing

In accordance with our school's whistleblowing policy and procedures all staff and pupils can raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime. Our whistleblowing procedures (including our child-friendly whistleblowing mechanisms), which are also reflected in staff training and our Staff Behaviour Policy and are shared with pupils, are in place for such concerns to be raised with the Headteacher.

Systems are in place and well promoted so that children can confidently report concerns or abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the Headteacher or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels are open to them:

- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline
Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 from 08:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday, or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

(In the absence of a Chair of Governors, any concerns or allegations against the Headteacher will be referred to Wiltshire Safeguarding.)

Escalation of concerns

Effective working together depends on an open approach and honest relationships between colleagues and between agencies.

Staff must be confident and able to professionally disagree and challenge decision-making as an entirely legitimate activity; a part of our professional responsibility to promote the best safeguarding practice. Staff are encouraged to press for re-consideration if they believe a decision to act/not act in response to a concern raised about a child is wrong. In such cases the SVPP Case Resolution Protocol is used if necessary.

If we are on the receiving end of a professional challenge, we see this as an opportunity to reflect on our decision making.

Record keeping and information sharing

The school:

- liaises with partner organisations (alternative provisions, Wiltshire Council, etc.) to ensure any safeguarding records for learners are shared on transition and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within 5 days of the start of a new term:

- by the setting/school/organisation previously attended by the child.
- by our DSL when the child leaves our school.

For any child dual-registered with another school/setting/organisation, the school continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of the placed pupil thus the DSL will regularly liaise with the DSL at that base to ensure information is shared in the child's best interests.

This includes contextual safeguarding information about relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online to enable assessment and intervention to happen within these extra-familial contexts.

- keeps clear and comprehensive written records of all pupil safeguarding and child protection concerns using CPOMS or the standard recording form (Welfare Concern Form – Annex D), with a body map as appropriate, including how the concerns was followed up and resolved as well as a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome. This should include instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as LA children's social care or the Prevent program, etc.
- ensures all hard copy pupil safeguarding and child protection records are kept securely in a locked location.
- ensures the records incorporate the wishes and views of the pupil.

The DSL acts in accordance with Information Sharing – Department for Education (DfE) (May 2024) and in line with the Wiltshire Council Record Keeping Guidance which includes details about file retention. Information about pupils at risk of harm is shared with members of staff in keeping with the seven golden rules to sharing information in the DfE guidance.

We are committed to work in partnership with parents and carers. In most situations, we will discuss initial concerns with them. However, the DSL will not share information where there are concerns that if so doing would:

- place a child at increased risk of significant harm
- place an adult at increased risk of serious harm
- prejudice the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime
- lead to unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm to a child, or serious harm to an adult.

When we become aware that a child is being privately fostered, we remind the carer/parent of their legal duty to notify Wiltshire Children's Social Care. We follow this up by contacting Children's Social Care directly.

Mandatory procedures – Supporting children

A culture of listening to children

We have a whole school approach to listening to children and have systems in place which create an environment where children feel safe to share their concerns and

worries and know they will be taken seriously. These systems operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

Children can safely express their views and give feedback. The school's safeguarding team are clearly identifiable to our pupils. We regularly gather pupil voice via the Pupil Leadership Team, the 'Find Your Voice' yellow boxes and surveys, this data informs our practice and policies.

Curriculum -teaching about safeguarding

Our pupils access a broad and balanced curriculum (age and stage of development appropriate) that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

We provide opportunities for pupils to develop skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge that promote their safety and well-being, including online. The PSHE and citizenship curriculum, incorporating Relationships, Sex and Health (RSHE) education specifically includes the following objectives:

- Developing pupil self-esteem and communication skills
- Developing strategies for self-protection including online safety
- Developing a sense of the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in adults and within peer relationships (positive relationships and consent) Examples of topics:
 - health and respectful relationships
 - boundaries and consent
 - stereotyping, prejudice and equality
 - body confidence and self-esteem
 - how to recognize an abusive relationship, including coercive and controlling behaviour
 - the concepts of, and laws relating to sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, so called honour-based violence such as forced marriage and FGM, and how to access support, and
 - what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable.

Remote learning

If the school is required to change the way we offer our provision to children due to exceptional circumstances e.g. during a pandemic lockdown and/or self-isolation, staff responsibilities to remain alert to the signs and risks of abuse to children will continue to apply. In such circumstances:

The DSL will:

- work closely with social care and partner agencies to support children in these circumstances and to identify children who may be at risk for the first time and/or benefit from additional support

- use specific local and national guidance about safeguarding in such circumstances to inform practice e.g. UK Safer internet centre guidance, DfE safeguarding and remote education and will ensure staff, children, and families are provided with written:
 - o amended DSL arrangements as required (names, location and contact details)
 - o temporary changes to procedures for working with children e.g. online.
 - o amended procedures for reporting concerns
 - o safeguarding training arrangements
 - o timescales for such changes so that all children, families and staff understand when such arrangements will end, and arrangements revert to those in place prior to the events leading to the need for the temporary changes.

We will ensure the curriculum we offer during such circumstances, continues to promote learners' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

Early help

At Leehurst Swan, all our staff can identify children who may benefit from early help as a problem emerges and discuss this with the DSL.

The DSL uses:

- The Wiltshire's Integrated Front Door (MASH and Early Support Hub).
- The Digital Assessment and Referral Tool as appropriate as part of a holistic assessment of the child's needs.
- The Multi-Agency Thresholds guidance for Safeguarding Children on the SVPP website about suitable action to take when a pupil has been identified as making inadequate progress or having an unmet need.
- Liaises with Wiltshire SEND service
- Various resources to identify and respond to harmful sexual behaviour

Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or physical health issues

Pupils with additional needs or certain health conditions face an increased risk of abuse and neglect. Staff take extra care to interpret correctly apparent signs of abuse or neglect. We never assume that behaviour, mood or injury relates to the pupil's additional needs without further exploration.

Staff understand that additional challenges can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in pupils with SEND, including communication barriers. Staff recognise that children with SEND, are also at a higher risk of peer group isolation and can be disproportionately affected by bullying (including prejudice-based bullying). To address those additional challenges, extra pastoral support is considered for children with

SEND or physical health issues and they are also encouraged to discuss their concerns. The

The DSL works with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)/Head of Learning Support to identify pupils with additional communication needs and whenever possible, these pupils are given the chance to express themselves to a member of staff with appropriate communication skills.

The use of 'reasonable force' in school

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff to use reasonable force to safeguard children. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a young person needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.

'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'.

The use of force may involve either passive physical contact, such as standing between pupils or blocking a pupil's path, or active physical contact such as leading a pupil by the arm out of the classroom.

Leehurst Swan follows the DfE advice for schools '[Use of Reasonable Force in Schools](#)'. When reasonable force has been applied, this is logged with the DSL. The log is reviewed annually by Governors.

All staff will follow our Safeguarding Staff Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct, and all pupils are encouraged to follow these expectations to reduce the need for 'use of reasonable force'. Staff will work in collaboration with pupils and parents/carers to plan positive, proactive behaviour support which may include support plans, referral to specialist agencies and agreeing actions to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviour.

Mandatory procedures – Specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues

Child-on-child abuse

All children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

In addition, we have a zero-tolerance approach and will respond to all reports and concerns of child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment, including those that have happened outside of the school, and/or online.

Staff recognise that while both boys and girls can abuse their peers, it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys, the instigators of such abuse. Children who are, who are perceived to be or who have parents that are or are perceived to be within the LGBTQ+ community may be targeted by other children.

Child-on-child abuse is not tolerated, passed off as “banter” or seen as “part of growing up”. The different forms of child-on-child abuse is likely to include, but not limited to:

- bullying (including cyber bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- ‘upskirting’ or any picture taken under a person’s clothing without their permission or them knowing to obtain sexual gratification or cause humiliation, distress or alarm.
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting)
- sexual violence and sexual harassment between children, as defined by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which considers rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault, all types of sexual violence. Sexual violence and sexual harassment can be between two children, or a group of children and can occur online and offline.

Consequently, child-on-child abuse is dealt with as a safeguarding issue.

Any pupil who may have been victimised and/or displayed such harmful behaviours, along with any other child affected by child-on-child abuse, will be supported through the school’s pastoral system and the support will be regularly monitored and reviewed.

We will address inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) as this can be an important intervention that may help prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

We acknowledge that even if there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported. Staff maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ where safeguarding is concerned.

We minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by providing:

- a relevant, effective curriculum, that helps children to develop their understanding of acceptable behaviours, healthy relationships and keeping themselves safe. The curriculum is updated to reflect changes in legislation, and the mandatory teaching of Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education.
- established/publicised systems for pupils to raise concerns with staff, knowing they will be listened to, supported and valued, and that the issues they raise will be taken seriously.

- training to all staff so that they understand that child-on-child abuse can and does happen and are trained to be alert to any behaviours that could cause concern
- a clear procedure for all staff to report all incidents as a safeguarding concern to the school's DSL.

Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment

The DSL will follow local and national guidance when there has been a report of sexual violence and harassment between children. This will include liaising with other professionals to develop robust risk and needs assessments and appropriate specialist targeted work for pupils who are identified as posing a potential risk to other children. This is done using a Contextual Safeguarding approach to ensure assessments consider risks posed by any wider environmental factors present in a child's life. The DSL will record specifically the time and location of the incident, and any action required to make the location safer.

The NSPCC has a dedicated helpline 0800 136 663 to provide children who are victims of sexual abuse in schools with appropriate support and advice. The helpline also provides support to parents and professionals.

Serious violence

We are committed to success in learning for all our pupils as one of the most powerful indicators in the prevention of youth crime.

Our curriculum includes teaching conflict resolution skills and understanding risky situations to help our children develop the social and emotional skills they need to thrive.

Staff are trained to recognise both the early warning signs of contextual risks and that pupils may be susceptible to exploitation by gangs as well as indicators that a pupil is involved in serious violent crime. They are also aware of the associated risks and know the measures put in place to minimise such risks.

Indicators include:

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

Children who are absent and/or children missing in education

Staff report immediately to the DSL, if they know of any child who may be:

- Absent from education persistently, or for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions

- Missing – whereabouts unknown or
- Missing education – (compulsory school age (5-16) with no school place and not electively home educated)
- Or have unexplainable absence

The designated teacher for CLA (Child Looked After) and care leavers discusses any unauthorised/unexplained absence of Child Looked After with Virtual School when required.

Where reasonably possible we will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil. This gives us additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child missing education is also identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

The DSL shares any unauthorised/unexplained absence of children who have an allocated social worker within 24 hours.

Children who do not attend school regularly can be at increased risk of abuse and neglect. Where there is unauthorised/unexplained absence, and

- after reasonable attempts have been made to contact the family without success, the DSL follows the SVPP procedure and consults/refers to the IFD team as appropriate.
- there are no known welfare concerns about a pupil, we follow our procedures for unauthorised absence and report concerns to the Education Welfare Service.

Mental health

All staff are aware that mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff understand that:

- abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Staff are aware of how these experiences can impact on children's mental health, behaviour and education.
- they have a duty to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, they will report this concern using the agreed reporting mechanisms.

Domestic abuse

Staff understand that domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16

or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to psychological; physical; sexual; financial; and emotional harm, including where they see, hear or experience its effects.

The DSL liaises with partner agencies as part of 'Encompass' in Wiltshire. When police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, where there are children in the household who have experienced the domestic incident, the DSL ensures the organisation receives up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and will ensure key staff provide emotional and practical support to the child according to their needs.

Preventing radicalisation

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of schools' wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting pupils from other forms of harm, abuse and exploitation.

Staff use their judgement in identifying pupils who might be at risk of radicalisation and speak to the DSL if they are concerned about a pupil. The DSL will always act proportionately, and this may include making a Prevent referral to the Channel support programme or to the Local Authority Children's Services. All new staff undertake online Prevent training and all staff receive an annual review.

County Lines

Some children who go missing regularly or permanently may be being used for trafficking drugs, sometimes known as 'county lines' or may be being subjected to another form of abuse.

Staff need to be alert to detect patterns of absence, and changes in presentation to help this and raise concerns to the DSL immediately.

Leehurst Swan School recognises that this is a particular problem with children who attend independent schools, who are often targeted as 'clean skins', making them particularly susceptible to this form of exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Both **CSE** and **CCE** are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status and access to economic or other resources.

In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual, and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online.

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions.
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation.
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being.
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol.
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

The above CCE indicators can also be indicators of CSE, as can:

- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends; and
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant

Sexting occurs when a person sends or posts a sexually indecent image or message via a digital device. This may concern themselves or may be sending on images or messages about a third party. Sexting is illegal. Pupils are taught about the pressures they may come under to be involved in sexting, and how to protect themselves through PSHCE and lessons on online safety.

Childline offers useful advice:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/explore/OnlineSafety/Pages/Sexting.aspx>

When a child is coerced into sending indecent pictures of themselves, this is an example of abuse if it comes from a peer, or it could be CSE, and is extremely serious. Child-on-child abuse of this type is dealt with in line with this School's child protection procedures and the victim of exploitation offered appropriate support.

Grooming, namely integrating oneself with a child in order to perpetrate any of the activities above, whether physical or non-physical, is a criminal offence when carried out with a child under 16. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection unit (CEOP) can be contacted when staff have concerns that a pupil has had or fears they may have had inappropriate contact with someone online, whether an adult or someone of their own age.

Looked After Child (LAC)

The DSL has responsibility for the welfare and progress of looked-after children (LAC) and will be trained for the role. If looked after children are in school staff must be aware of their legal status and who the delegated carer is (whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility. They should also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her.

The DSL should have details of the child's social worker.

A previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. They should approach the DSL for any aspect they are unsure of.

When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together, and prompt action is taken on concerns to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Staff will inform the DSL immediately if they suspect a girl is at risk of FGM. We will report to the police any 'known' cases of FGM to the police as required by law.

Forced marriage

Forcing a person into marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one that is entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage.

Since February 2023 it has been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. As with the existing forced marriage law, this applies to non-binding, unofficial 'marriages' as well as legal marriages. Staff will inform the DSL immediately if they suspect a child is at risk of forced marriage.

Staff training

Induction

The welfare of all our pupils is of paramount importance. All staff including governors and regular volunteers are informed of our safeguarding policy and procedures including online safety, at induction.

Our written induction schedule for staff also includes:

- Plan of support for individuals appropriate to the role for which they have been hired
- The Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures
- Online safety
- KCSiE update
- The role and identity of the DSLs
- CPOMS
- Whistleblowing policy
- The Behaviour, Discipline and Exclusions policy
- Confirmation of the conduct expected of staff within the school – our Staff Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct (including whistleblowing and acceptable use of IT, staff/pupil relationships and communications including good use of social media)
- The school's response to children who are absent and/or missing from education, and the school's protocol about managing absence
- Copies of Part 1 of KCSiE 2025, including Annex B and Part 5 for school leaders and those who work directly with children
- Procedures to follow in case of an allegation being made against an adult
- Professional disagreement and escalation including SVPP Case Resolution Protocol
- Opportunities for a new member of staff to discuss any issues or concerns about their role or responsibilities
- Confirmation of the line management/mentor process whereby any general concerns or issues about the person's ability or suitability will be addressed.

Safeguarding training

This training is for all staff and is delivered in line with SVPP advice and resources. It is for all staff and is updated every 3 years as a minimum to ensure staff understand their role in safeguarding. Any member of staff not present at this whole school session will undertake this statutory training requirement on their return.

In addition, all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as necessary and at least annually. All staff also receive training to include Prevent and online safety and this is updated as necessary.

KCSiE 2025 Part 1 should be read and understood by all staff and Annex B and Part 5 by school leaders and those who work directly with children.

All staff have been trained to manage a report of child-on-child sexual abuse.

Advanced training

The DSL has additional multi agency training which is updated every two years as a minimum. The DSL also attend multi-agency courses relevant to school needs. Their knowledge and skills are refreshed at least annually e.g. via e-bulletins or safeguarding networking events with other DSLs. The DSL attend a Wiltshire IFD tour.

Safer Recruitment

At least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken Safer Recruitment Training. This training is updated every five years as a minimum.

Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and Children Previously Looked After Child

The designated teacher for looked after children has attended training specific to the role.

Preventing radicalisation

All staff undertake Prevent awareness training.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of schools' wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting pupils from other forms of harm and abuse.

- **Extremism** is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies which are often (but not always) associated with terrorist groups.
- **Terrorism** is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Staff use their judgement in identifying pupils who might be at risk of radicalisation and speak to the DSL if they are concerned about a pupil. The DSL will always act proportionately, and this may include making a Prevent referral to the Channel support programme or to the IFD.

Staff should refer to the Counterterrorism and Security Act (2015) and the government guidance 'The Prevent Duty – safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation which was published on 24 October 2022 for further guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation>

Staff support

Due to the demanding, often distressing nature of child protection work, we support staff by providing an opportunity to talk through the challenges of this aspect of their role with a senior leader and to seek further support as appropriate.

Governors

As well as the school's safeguarding induction programme, all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. Safeguarding training is updated annually. Governors are also encouraged to complete face to face whole school safeguarding and child protection training.

Related legislation and key documents

Children Act 1989 (and 2004 update): The Children Act 1989 gives every child the right to protection from abuse and exploitation and the right to have enquires made to safeguard his or her welfare. The Act place duties on several agencies, including schools, to assist Social Services departments acting on behalf of children and young people in need (s17) or enquiring into allegations of child abuse (s47).

Education Act 2002 - This requires schools to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education.

Sexual Offences Act 2003 - This act sets out an offence of 'abuse of trust' - a sexual or otherwise inappropriate relationship between an adult who is responsible for young people and a young person in his/her care.

Information Sharing – Department for Education (DfE) Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers

2024 This advice is for all frontline practitioners and senior managers working with children, young people, parents and carers who have to make decisions about sharing personal information on a case-by-case basis.

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), section 26 requires all schools, 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 – Safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation (2022) A series of guidance documents to support schools in recognising radicalisation and actions to take should there be concerns

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation>
[safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation)

Mental health and behaviour in schools (2018) advice to help schools to support pupils whose mental health problems manifest themselves in behaviour. It is also intended to be helpful to staff in alternative provision settings, although some of the

legislation mentioned will only apply to those alternative provision settings that are legally classified as schools.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) Section 53(3) and (4) of this applies to schools if they broker student accommodation with host families for which the host family receives a payment from a third party, such as a language school. At a future date, the regulated activity provider will have a duty to carry out a barred list check on any new carer – section 34ZA Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

The Teachers' Standards (2013) set a clear baseline of expectations for the professional practice and conduct of teachers and define the minimum level of practice expected of teachers in England.

Children Missing Education (2016) Statutory guidance for local authorities and advice for other groups on helping children who are missing education get back into it.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (2021) Advice for schools and colleges on how to prevent and respond to reports of sexual violence and harassment between children.

Preventing and Tackling Bullying (2017) Advice for schools on effectively preventing and tackling bullying.

Behaviour and Discipline in Schools (2016) Advice for Headteachers and school staff on developing school behaviour policy, including an overview of their powers and duties.