

Creating Opportunities
Building Aspirations
Inspiring Success



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

(Governors: Green = LA updated in line with KCSiE, red = updated specific to
KN)

Date of review: August 2023

Date of next review: August 2024

Signed Headteacher: _____ Date: _____

Signed CoG: _____ Date: _____

September 2023

CONTENTS

1. CORE SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES	Error! Bookmark not defined.
2. PURPOSE OF POLICY	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3. SAFEGURDING LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4. TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP SUPPLEMENTARY SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5. TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP	Error! Bookmark not defined.
6. KEY DEFINITIONS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	Error! Bookmark not defined.
8. CHILDREN WHO MAY BE POTENTIALLY MORE AT RISK OF HARM / VOICE OF THE CHILD	Error! Bookmark not defined.
9. CHILDREN IN NEED OF A SOCIAL WORKER	Error! Bookmark not defined.
10. CHILDREN REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
11. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND PREVIOUS LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	Error! Bookmark not defined.
12. SEND CHILDREN	Error! Bookmark not defined.
13. CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION AND CHILDREN MISSING	Error! Bookmark not defined.
14. CHILDREN ABSENT FROM EDUCATION / ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION	Error! Bookmark not defined.
15. WHISTLEBLOWING	Error! Bookmark not defined.
16. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF & REPORTING OF LOW-LEVEL CONCERNS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
17. STAFF TRAINING	Error! Bookmark not defined.
18. VISITORS	23
19. EXTENDED SCHOOL AND OFF-SITE ARRANGEMENTS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
20. IDENTIFYING ABUSE	24
21. INDICATORS OF ABUSE	24
22. VOICE OF THE CHILD	26
23. SAFEGUARDING ISSUES	26
24. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	26
25. CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION INCLUDING COUNTY LINES	28
26. SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE	Error! Bookmark not defined.
27. ONLINE HARMS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
28. DOMESTIC ABUSE	33

29.	SO-CALLED HONOUR-BASED ABUSE	33
30.	RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM	35
31.	PEER ON PEER ABUSE	36
32.	PEER ON PEER SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
33.	YOUTH PRODUCED SEXUAL IMAGERY	38
34.	BULLYING (INCLUDING CYBERBULLYING)	43
35.	HOMELESSNESS	43
36.	CHILDREN AND THE COURT SYSTEM	44
37.	CHILDREN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRISON	44
38.	PRIVATE FOSTERING	44
39.	YOUNG CARERS	44
40.	CHILD ABDUCTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY INCIDENTS	45
41.	MODERN SLAVERY	45
42.	TAKING SAFEGUARDING ACTION	46
43.	EARLY HELP	46
44.	HANDLING DISCLOSURES	48
45.	CONFIDENTIALITY AND SHARING INFORMATION	49
46.	REFERRING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	50
47.	ESCALATION PROCEDURES	51

Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service has provided this policy structure to assist schools when reviewing their Child Protection policy for ratification by the Governing Body. If schools decide to use this policy outline, then they should ensure that the resulting policy is tailored to the school setting and individualised. The responsibility remains with the governing body to ensure that the Child Protection policy is compliant and effective for the individual school.

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed to ensure that all adults in Kobi Nazrul Primary School are working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. It describes the management systems and arrangements in place to create and maintain a safe learning environment for all our children, young people and staff. The policy identifies actions that should be taken to redress any concerns about child safety and welfare including protecting pupils and staff from extremist views. All opinions or behaviours which are contrary to the values and the ethos of the school will be vigorously challenged.

For the safeguarding procedures to work, it relies on the commitment and expertise of every adult within school to be able to recognise or report concerns. Therefore, we aim to have a school where:

- There is a belief that ‘it could happen here’.
- There are clear procedures for reporting concerns.
- There is a commitment to take action in relation to concerns raised.
- There is a set of standards for professional conduct.
- Child protection is part of induction training.
- There is an ongoing culture of vigilance.

The school aims to develop an ethos in which children feel secure, their viewpoints are valued and they are encouraged to talk and listen.

Tower Hamlets Child Protection Procedures

Kobi Nazrul Primary School follows the procedures outlined by the *Tower Hamlets Local Safeguarding Children Board – a guide to procedure and practice for all professional staff in Tower Hamlets who work with children*.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- London Child Protection Procedures (5th Edition, 2013): <http://www.londoncp.co.uk/>; and
- *Tower Hamlets Local Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures for Staff Working in Children’s, School and Family Settings* (September 2017); and
- *Tower Hamlets Local Safeguarding Children Board: Procedures for Managing Allegations of Abuse against Staff working in Children’s, School and Family* (April 2018).
- Tower Hamlets SCB Multi-Agency Safeguarding Thresholds Guidance
- Tower Hamlets SCB LADO Procedures and Flowchart re Allegations made against staff working in the children’s workforce - Information about reporting and managing allegations
- Tower Hamlets SCB Supplementary Guidance for Schools and Education Settings on Managing Allegations of Abuse against Staff – September 2018
- Staff code of conduct
- School health and safety policy
- School behavior policy
- School e-safety policy
- Staff complaints policy
- School safer recruitment policy

This policy is available on the school website, shared drive, staff room and a shorter version in the staff handbook.

Safeguarding policies will be reviewed in line with the policy schedule (annually for child protection and safeguarding) unless there is an incident, change in legislation or guidance calls for review.

School Staff

Teachers and other school staff are particularly well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and failure to develop because they have daily contact with the children.

We recognise the important role the school has in the early recognition of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. We ensure that we make effective and fair use of all the appropriate referral process.

We are committed to the safeguarding practices of this policy at Kobi Nazrul.

Ethos of the School

The school aims to develop an atmosphere in which children feel secure, in which their viewpoints are valued, and in which they are encouraged to talk and listen.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and governors and that they have been written in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership supplementary guidance (THSCP).

1. CORE SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of the child is paramount and underpins all discussions, decision making, and actions taken at the school.
- All concerns disclosed and reported will be taken seriously.
- All children have the right to have a life free from harm, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, all have equal rights to protection. This includes children's lives in digital and online environments.
- The child's wishes and feelings will always be taken into account at the school when determining what action to take and what support to provide.
- All staff including supply staff, contractors and volunteers have an equal responsibility to act immediately on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm or has been harmed.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all pupils and staff involved in safeguarding and child protection issues will receive appropriate support.

These 6 core principles are embedded within the school's safeguarding arrangements; its safeguarding policies, procedures and systems; and underpin the whole school approach to safeguarding at [Insert Name of School].

2. PURPOSE OF POLICY

- To provide all staff with key information to enable them to identify safeguarding concerns and know what action to take in response.
- To ensure consistent good practice throughout the school.
- To demonstrate the school's commitment to safeguarding to the whole school community: pupils, parents and other partners.

3. SAFEGURDING LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

The following safeguarding legislation and government guidance have informed the content of this policy:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (Local maintained schools only)
- Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 (Independent schools only, including academies and Free Schools)
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (Independent schools only, including academies and Free Schools)
- The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (as amended)
- Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021 (16-19 Academies and Independent Training Providers)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 (Updated July 2022)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(1 September 2023\)](#)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- [Statutory Framework for the early years foundation stage \(1 September 2021\) \[delete if there is no early years provision\]](#)
- The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Department advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities (May 2014)
- The Teacher Standards 2012

4. THSCP SUPPLEMENTARY SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE

The following THSCP safeguarding guidance has informed the content of this policy:

- London Child Protection Procedures revised 7th Edition (London Safeguarding Children Board, 31st March 2023)
- Tower Hamlets SCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Thresholds Guidance
- Tower Hamlets SCP Supplementary Guidance for Schools and Education Settings on Child Protection Procedures - September 2023
- Tower Hamlets SCP LADO Procedures and Flowchart re Allegations made against staff working in the children's workforce - Information about reporting and managing allegations
- Tower Hamlets SCP Supplementary Guidance for Schools and Education Settings on Managing Allegations of Abuse against Staff – September 2023

5. TOWER HAMLETS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

The Children Act 2004 as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 has brought about the establishment of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership (THSCP). The Partnership coordinates the work of all agencies and ensures that this work is effective in achieving the best outcomes for Tower Hamlets children. The three statutory safeguarding partners have published arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs. More information about the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership can be found on the website: <http://www.childrenandfamiliestrust.co.uk/the-lscb/>

The school has been named as a 'relevant agency' and as such is under a statutory duty to cooperate with the THSCP arrangements.

The school will engage with the borough's Designated Safeguarding Lead Forums, co-operate with the Rapid Review process and any Local Learning Reviews,¹ participate in the THSCP multi-agency safeguarding training offer, and co-operate with the borough's Section 175/157 School Safeguarding Audit cycle.

¹ For more information on the Rapid Review process, Local Learning Reviews and Child Death Reviews, Working Together 2018 Chapters 4 and 5 should be consulted. Working Together 2018 paragraphs 25-27 provide more information on the expectation of school's role within the safeguarding partnership arrangements.

6. KEY DEFINITIONS

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing the impairment of a child's physical and mental 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 refers to the processes followed to protect children who have been identified as suffering or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

Child includes everyone under the age of 18.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, carers, foster carers, and adoptive parents.

Staff refers to all those who work for the school or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, temporary or permanent, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body/Trustees/Proprietor have the strategic leadership responsibility for safeguarding arrangements at the school. As a collective body it must have regard to all relevant statutory guidance issued, including Keeping Children Safe in Education, and ensure that school's safeguarding policies and procedures, including the current Child Protection Policy, are compliant with legislation and statutory guidance, reflect local safeguarding arrangements and are effective.

In accordance with the statutory requirement the named member of the Governing Body who takes leadership responsibility for safeguarding at the school is [insert name] and they are referred to as the Safeguarding Link Governor.

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that the school's Child Protection Policy and other safeguarding policies are communicated to all staff, understood by all members of staff, and followed by all members of staff.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead takes the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding arrangements within the school on a day-to-day basis including

online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place.

As a school we have 3 x DSLs, during the holidays etc, always contact the main DSL first (HT) unless another arrangement has been made and shared.

All staff should recognise that as frontline workers they are in an important position to identify concerns early, provide help and support to children, promote children's welfare, and prevent concerns from escalating.

All staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

All staff have a responsibility to report safeguarding concerns immediately to the DSL. This is to be done through the school's google form procedure.

If in doubt about any safeguarding matter, staff should always speak to the DSL.

All staff are expected to keep safeguarding values at the core of their daily conduct. The best interests of the child should determine their decision making, behaviour and any action taken.

ROLE	POST HOLDER	CONTACT DETAILS	TRAINING
Headteacher (Lead Designated Person for Child Protection)	Belinda King	020 73753626 or Belinda.king@kobinazrul.towerhamlets.sch.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Recruitment training 23/1/20 • Responding to a Child in Adolescence: 19/6/2019 • Neglect training (June 2019) 6 hours • NSPCC Keeping Children Safe online training 29/11/21 • Prevent training (Jan 2020) 2 hours • Whole School LA training 2022 (2.5 hrs each)
Deputy Head (Deputy Designated Person for Child Protection 1)	Cath Burns	020 73753626 or catherine.burns@kobinazrul.towerhamlets.sch.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Recruitment training Feb 2020 • Impact of the Toxic Trio on Families – LBTH 24/6/2019 • hours • NSPCC Keeping Children Safe online training 29/11/21 • Prevent training (Jan 2020) 2 hours • Whole School LA training 2022 (2.5 hrs each)
Inclusion Leader (Deputy Designated Person for Child Protection 2)	Rumina Bibi	020 73753626 or Rumina.bibi@kobinazrul.towerhamlets.sch.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Recruitment training 6.7.21 • Intermediate safeguarding training (Autumn 2018) 6 hours • DSL forum (October 2018) 3 hours • Prevent training (Jan 2020) 2 hours • Whole School LA training 2022 (2.5 hrs each)
Chair of Governors	Avril Newman	020 73753626 or avril.newman@btopenworld.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Training as follows: • Safer Recruitment: 04.03.15 • Prevent Training: 21.01.16 • Annual Safeguarding Refresher: 22.01.18 • Advanced Safeguarding: 10.02.18
Safeguarding Link Governor	Kate O'Neill	020 73753626 or admin@kobinazrul.towerhamlets.sch.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer recruitment training December 2017 • KN safeguarding audit – 7th July 2017
PREVENT Lead	Belinda King	020 73753626 or Belinda.king@kobinazrul.towerhamlets.sch.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Lead for Looked After Children (LAC)	Belinda King	020 73753626 or Belinda.king@kobinazrul.towerhamlets.sch.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above

The role of the DSL includes:

- ensuring all staff read and understand the school's safeguarding policies and that procedures are followed by all staff
- advising and supporting staff as they carry out their safeguarding duty
- encouraging a whole school approach to safeguarding, which is when paramountcy of the welfare of the child underpins all systems, policies, procedures, and decision making
- promoting a culture of listening to the voice of the child and ensuring that there are formal and informal opportunities for that voice to be heard

- ensuring timely and accurate referrals are made to children's social care, the police, or other agencies
- participating in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings
- liaising with the case manager and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) where allegations are made against staff
- making staff aware of training courses and the latest local safeguarding arrangements available through the local safeguarding partner arrangements
- transferring the child protection file to a child's new school and proactively contacting the new school in advance to help ensure a successful transition
- undergoing the required 2 day refresher training every 2 years as a minimum and receiving regular updates to maintain the knowledge and skills to carry out the role, including Prevent awareness training.

The Deputy DSLs are trained to the same level as the DSL and supports the DSL with safeguarding matters.

If a designated safeguarding lead is not available, staff should first check with the School Business Manager, Aqueddus Ali who will make arrangements for contact. If this were ever not possible, staff should contact the MASH team on: 0207 364 3444.

All Staff are expected to keep safeguarding values at the centre of their conduct. The best interests of the child should determine their behaviour and action.

As an organisation working with children and young people, Kobi Nazrul has a responsibility to act if abuse comes to light, to protect children from the possibility of being abused within school, and to respond to disclosures of abuse outside school. For the purposes of this policy a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 years of age (Appendix B: Categories and Signs of abuse).

Staff should be concerned about a pupil if he or she:

- Has any injury which is not typical of the bumps or scrapes normally associated with children's injuries.
- Frequently has unexplained injuries or injuries for which confused or conflicting explanations are given.

- Frequently has injuries (even when apparently reasonable explanations are given).
- Exhibits significant changes in behaviour, or exhibits behaviour which is inappropriate to his or her age.
- Discloses an experience in which he or she may have been significantly harmed.
- Goes missing from – that is, persistently fails to attend – school or education.
- *KCSIE22* emphasises the importance of ‘contextual safeguarding’, ‘which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child’s life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare’.

Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interests of the child.

All school staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards pupils is unacceptable and that their conduct towards pupils must be beyond reproach. All staff understand the Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes it an offence for a person over the age of 18 to have a sexual relationship with a person under the age of 18, where that person is in a position of trust, even if the relationship is consensual. This means that any sexual activity between a member of the school staff and a pupil under 18 may be a criminal offence.

8. A/ CHILDREN WHO MAY BE POTENTIALLY MORE AT RISK OF HARM

All staff should recognise that all children are vulnerable but that some children may be more vulnerable than others and at more risk of harm. Children known to a Social Worker, Looked After Children and Care Leavers are likely to have suffered abuse at some point in their childhood and may be more vulnerable to further abuse including exploitation. Staff need to be aware that other children who may be potentially more at risk of harm include

A Child who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan);
- has a mental health need;
- is a young carer;

- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is at risk of so-called honour based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage;
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- has returned home to their family from care; and
- is a privately fostered child;
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.

Staff must be more vigilant in their day-to-day work with children when the above vulnerabilities are known and report all concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

B/ RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The school upholds the human rights of the child in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998.² It is unlawful for schools to act in a way that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. Specifically, the school embeds and upholds the following Convention rights of the child across its safeguarding policies and procedures:

- Article 3: the right to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment (an absolute right)
- Article 8: the right to respect for private and family life (a qualified right) includes a duty to protect individuals' physical and psychological integrity
- Article 14: requires that all of the rights and freedoms set out in the Act must be protected and applied without discrimination
- Protocol 1, Article 2: protects the right to education.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the school must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics). **This is in line with our Equality policy and plan (which can be found on the school website).** The school is committed to supporting and taking

² <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights>

positive action towards children with regard to particular protected characteristics - including disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and race- who may be at a disadvantage and be disproportionately vulnerable.

In fulfilment of the school's Public Sector Equality Duty the school has due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation (and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act), to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

At Kobi Nazrul, we promote our Equalities practice and principles through safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, they are supporting their pupils with protected characteristics - including disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and race. This is done through for example, our Relationships and Sex Education policy and curriculum and PSHE curriculum. Our Equalities plan ensures we are responsive to the needs of our community and this is reviewed annually with governors. This year we are undergoing a full consultation to rewrite our plan and policy in light of our school development priorities. For example, last year we invested significant work in developing racial literacy across the school; including through the curriculum and this year we are developing a wider approach to include religious and cultural literacy.

Our inclusion ethos; rather more importantly, our inclusion culture ensures that children who need to have adjustments made to learn as best they can, have this.

As evident in the Serious Case Review Child Q, the school is aware that children from ethnically diverse groups are at risk of adultification whereby their vulnerability as a child is reduced or set aside because of racial bias and stereotypes impacting professional judgement.³ All staff share in the whole school's commitment to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion remain at the centre of the school's safeguarding culture, so that all children receive the care, support, and protection they have the right to receive.

The school shares the London Borough of Tower Hamlet's commitment to being an anti-racist borough and to tackle and eliminate race discrimination. The council's Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission (2021) concluded that racism still exists within institutions and structures in the borough and has developed an action plan to achieve race equality at pace.⁴ The action plan recognises that schools have a powerful and significant role in changing narratives and bringing about social change through education. **At Kobi Nazrul, we have made the development of racial literacy**

³ <https://chscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Child-Q-PUBLISHED-14-March-22.pdf>

⁴ https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/community_and_living/Inequality-Commission/Black-Asian-and-Minority-Ethnic-Inequalities-Commission.aspx

our main school goal and used this model where relevant, to develop our religious literacy as well. (Please see School Development plans 2022-2025).

9. CHILDREN IN NEED OF A SOCIAL WORKER

Children who have been allocated a social worker may have experienced abuse including neglect and belong to a family that has many complex circumstances. Staff should recognise that these children will have experienced adversity and trauma that can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged, and have a negative impact on their attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health.

When making decisions about safeguarding, carrying out risk analysis, making a safeguarding response to concerns such as unauthorised and persistent absence, and providing pastoral and academic support, the school will take seriously the fact that the child in need of a social worker will require enhanced pastoral and academic support alongside that provided by statutory services. School is also committed to providing further pastoral and academic support to children who have had historic contact with a Social Worker, in recognition that the abuse and trauma is likely to have an impact on the child beyond the duration of the involvement of statutory services. The school will co-operate with the Virtual School, which now has a non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the educational attendance, attainment, and progress of children known to a social worker. **The school has robust systems in place to ensure staff know 'what they need to know' to take the best care of our children. DSLs meet regularly to discuss the well-being and learning of these children through our highlighting meetings.**

10. CHILDREN REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

All staff have an important role in supporting the mental well-being of children and to identify behaviour that may suggest a child is experiencing mental health problems. All staff need to recognise that mental health may be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Staff should be aware of the trauma and mental health impact on a child who has had adverse childhood experiences including abuse, bereavement and separation of parents. Staff should also be aware that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the mental health of many children, some of whom have

never previously experienced difficulties with their mental health. However, all staff should be clear that only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health difficulty.

At Kobi Nazrul, our mental health lead is Paul Mills. Where concerns around mental health are identified, staff use our highlighting / early help procedure where our highlighting team will identify and put in place the best support available. This may include referring to external agencies.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

If any member of staff is concerned about a child, he or she *must* inform one of the designated child protection officers (listed above). The designated child protection officers 'are most likely to have the complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate people to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns' (KCSIE22).

- Information regarding the concerns must be recorded by the member of staff on the same day on the Vulnerable Children's Register (VCR). The school also retains a Cause for Concern form which may be used in the event that VCR is unavailable. The recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observation. The account must be dated and signed.
- The designated officer to whom the report has been handed will abide by the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and may refer the matter to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Tower Hamlets Children's Social Care. The Headteacher must be briefed before a referral is made. In some circumstances, parents *may* be notified, but staff should *not* notify parents in advance if there is any risk of (a) further endangering the child or children involved; (b) compromising the integrity of any evidence which may later be used in court, or (c) causing any alleged perpetrator of child abuse to be protected from investigation. Only Designated Child Protection Officers should make decisions about when to disclose Child Protection issues to parents and other staff must assume that information about Child Protection issues is strictly confidential, and act accordingly.
- If a referral is made to the MASH, the designated officer will ensure that a written report of the concerns is sent to the social worker dealing with the case within 48 hours.
- Particular attention is paid to the attendance and development of any child who has been identified as 'at risk' or who has been made subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- If a pupil about whom safeguarding concerns have been raised changes school, one of the designated officers will inform the social worker responsible for the case (if there is one), transfer the appropriate records to the receiving school, and provide specific information relating to support and wellbeing where appropriate.

- All staff will have regular training – at least annually – on areas related to child protection. These areas include:
- Child protection procedures, the Child Protection Policy and the Code of Conduct;
- Updates on changes to legislation, policy and procedure in the area of child protection;
- Specific guidance in recognising signs of abuse, FGM, child trafficking and exploitation, child sexual exploitation, children at risk from extremism and radicalisation, domestic violence, e-safety (use of ICT, the internet and social media), forced marriage, violence against women and girls, involvement in gangs, drugs and neglect.

WHEN TO BE CONCERNED

Child abuse can take place in a number of different settings, of which the following are examples:

- It occurs most commonly where the young person knows the individual/s concerned and they are trusted. This can include parents, carers, babysitters, siblings, relatives, or friends of the child or of the family.
- The abuser is sometimes someone in authority such as a teacher, teaching assistant, youth leader, children's worker or church worker / leader.
- Evidence shows that some abusers set out to obtain employment with children in order to give themselves opportunities to perpetrate abuse.
- *KCSIE22* emphasises the importance of 'contextual safeguarding', 'which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare'.

As an organisation working with children and young people, Kobi Nazrul has a responsibility to act if abuse comes to light, to protect children from the possibility of being abused within school, and to respond to disclosures of abuse outside school. For the purposes of this policy a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 years of age (Appendix B: Categories and Signs of abuse).

Staff should be concerned about a pupil if he or she:

- Has any injury which is not typical of the bumps or scrapes normally associated with children's injuries.
- Frequently has unexplained injuries or injuries for which confused or conflicting explanations are given.
- Frequently has injuries (even when apparently reasonable explanations are given).
- Exhibits significant changes in behaviour, or exhibits behaviour which is inappropriate to his or her age.
- Discloses an experience in which he or she may have been significantly harmed.

- Goes missing from – that is, persistently fails to attend – school or education.
- *KCSIE22* emphasises the importance of ‘contextual safeguarding’, ‘which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child’s life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare’.

Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interests of the child.

DEALING WITH A DISCLOSURE

If a pupil discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff should:

- Listen to what is being said without showing shock or disbelief.
- Accept what is being said.
- Allow the child to talk freely.
- Reassure the child but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep.
- Not promise confidentiality – the requirement to act in the child’s best interests means that it might be necessary to refer the matter to other services.
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell.
- Listen, rather than ask direct questions.
- Ask open questions rather than leading questions.
- Not criticise an alleged perpetrator.
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told in an age appropriate way.

RECORD KEEPING

When a pupil has made a disclosure the member of staff should use the standard school form to:

- Make brief notes as soon as possible after the conversation.
- Not destroy the original notes in case they are needed by a court.
- Record the date, time, place and any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child.
- Use a body map to indicate the position of any bruising or other injury.
- Record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions.

DETECTION – SIGNS OF ABUSE

In all of this, care should be taken, as misreading the signs of abuse can result in significant harm or trauma to the child and their family. In general staff will not have the expertise to 'diagnose' child abuse but do have a responsibility to be alert and aware of the signs.

Just because a child exhibits one of the signs listed above, this does not mean that they have been abused. Nevertheless, the presence of one or more of the signs, or their repeated presence, might raise concern and should be used as a prompt for referral to a Designated Child Protection Officer.

SUPPORT

Dealing with a disclosure from a child, and a Child Protection case in general, is likely to be a stressful experience. The member of staff should, therefore, consider seeking support for him/herself and discuss this with one of the designated officers.

11. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

Staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to safeguard Looked After Children and Care Leavers. The DSL and Designated Teacher will work with relevant agencies and take immediate action to safeguard and provide support to this vulnerable group of children.

The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead will work with the local authority's Personal Advisor appointed to guide and support Care Leavers, so that any issues or concerns affecting the care leaver can be explored and effective support put in place.

The school has robust systems in place to ensure staff know 'what they need to know' to take the best care of our children. DSLs meet regularly to discuss the well-being and learning of these children through our highlighting meetings and this is shared with the appropriate staff so they are clear about their part in the plan to support the child/ren.

12. SEND CHILDREN

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or physical health issues can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children, which can include:

- professionals and other adults making assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration

- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities or certain medical conditions being vulnerable to experiencing peer exclusion and isolation and being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying (including prejudice-based bullying), without outwardly showing any signs;
- children not understanding that what is happening to them is abuse; and
- communication barriers when reporting abuse and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

For some disabled children, their dependency on parents and carers for practical assistance in daily living, including intimate personal care, may increase their risk of exposure to abusive behaviour. Some children may also have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse. Looked After Disabled Children may be particularly susceptible to possible abuse because of their additional dependency on residential and hospital staff for day to day physical care needs.

Further information on safeguarding SEND children is available in the non-statutory guidance Safeguarding Disabled Children (2009), but staff should speak with the DSL and SENDCO in the first instance.

All staff are regularly trained to understand and be aware of the additional barriers that exist when safeguarding SEND children. All staff need to be aware that SEND children may be more vulnerable when online and using digital platforms, and it is important that Online Safety lessons and related advice are tailored to their individual needs.

The school has robust

13. CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION AND CHILDREN MISSING

The school closely monitors attendance, absence and exclusions. A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, child criminal exploitation or mental health problems. The school follows up on absences as part of its safeguarding duty. Staff must also be alert to signs of children at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Please also see the school's attendance policy which references school protocols for managing attendance.

When a pupil does not return to school and the whereabouts of the child and their family are not known after the school has made initial inquiries, the school must refer to the Local Authority using a Missing Children referral form.

Contact: LBTH CME Officer, Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service,
Saadia.Anwer@towerhamlets.gov.uk 020 7364 3426

14. CHILDREN ABSENT FROM EDUCATION & CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION

The school closely monitors attendance, absence, suspensions, and exclusions. A child ~~going missing~~ absent from education, whether prolonged or on repeat occasions, can be a vital warning sign of a wide range of safeguarding issues and is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, and child criminal exploitation (county lines).

Please also see our attendance policy for our procedures for managing children absent and missing from education.

In accordance with the DfE's *Working together to improve school attendance*, the school follows up on absences and addresses persistent absence as part of its safeguarding duty. Such an approach prevents the risk of these children becoming children missing education in the future. Staff address daily absence and persistent absence as soon as these problems emerge as part of school's early help response. Staff should be alert to children already known to be vulnerable especially Children known to a Social Worker and Looked After Children, since absence from education may increase known safeguarding risks within the family or in the community. Staff must also be alert to signs of children at risk of travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

15. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

The school recognises that parents have a legal right to electively home educate their child at home; however, it is expected that the parents' decision to do this is made with their child's best education and best interests at its heart. Staff should be aware that even though most home educated children have a positive experience, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some

children are less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs.

When a parent informs the headteacher of their intention to electively home educate their child, the school will convene and coordinate a meeting between the LA, relevant school staff, parents and all key professionals currently working with the child and family. In accordance with LBTH Policy this meeting ~~must~~ has to occur before any final decision is made by the parents, to ensure that the best interests of the child have been taken fully into account and carefully considered. The occurrence of this meeting is especially important when the children have known vulnerabilities including Children known to a Social Worker and SEND children.

16. WHISTLEBLOWING

Staff who have ongoing concerns about 'poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime' (KCSIE22) should follow the protocols described in the school's Whistleblowing Policy found on the school website or internal drive. There is also an NSPCC Whistleblowing helpline, available at 0800 028 0285.

The NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line 0800 028 0285 which is free & anonymous, more information can be found at nspcc.org.uk/whistleblowing.

17. REPORTING OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF & ~~REPORTING OF LOW-LEVEL CONCERNS~~ THAT DO NOT MEET THE HARM THRESHOLD

Allegations of harm may indicate that a person who works with children might pose a risk of harm to children if they continue in that role. When an allegation is made against a member of staff including supply staff and volunteers, the school's Managing Allegations Procedures should be followed, and all action taken needs to be in line with KCSIE 2023 Part 4 and the THSCP Supplementary Guidance- Managing Allegations of Abuse against Staff – September 2023.

An allegation is made against a member of staff including supply staff, volunteers, contractors and governors, when an individual has:

- 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 he or she 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.

All staff must report all allegations, irrespective of the source, directly to the headteacher and ensure that it is put in writing, signed and dated. If the subject of the allegation is the headteacher, then the allegation should be directly reported to the Chair of Governors.

On receipt of a report of an allegation, the headteacher will make immediate contact with the Local Authority Designated Officer for an initial discussion. If the allegation concerns the headteacher, then the Chair of Governors shall make contact with the LADO.

When an allegation is made against a supply member of staff, the headteacher will be the case manager and take the lead in contacting the LADO.

When schools receive a report of an allegation relating to an incident that happened when an individual or external organisation was making use of the school premises for activities involving children, the headteacher should seek the advice of the LADO.

Allegations concerning staff who no longer work at the school, or historical allegations will be reported to the police.

LBTH Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): Melanie Benzie

Email: Melanie.Benzie@towerhamlets.gov.uk or LADO@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Telephone: 0207364 0677

In accordance with the Early Years Framework registered Early Years settings must notify Ofsted of serious allegations of harms and the actions taken by the setting as soon as is reasonably practicable but no longer than 14 days. A registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence.

Concerns about staff that do not initially seem to fulfil the allegation criteria set out above are known as Concerns that do not meet the Harm Threshold, sometimes called low-level concerns, not because they are insignificant but because they do not initially seem to meet the harm threshold. Staff should report and self-report such concerns in accordance with the school's procedures which are found in the school's Staff Code of Conduct. Contact will be made with the LADO for advice and guidance when appropriate as part of the Headteacher's or Chair of Governor's response to the report.

Please also see our staff code of conduct on the staff drive

All staff should understand their responsibility to report **all concerns** about staff conduct which has taken place at the school or outside of the school including online environments, no matter how small or insignificant they might be perceived to be.

18. STAFF SAFEGUARDING TRAINING INCLUDING TRAINING FOR GOVERNORS

In addition to School Staff, Governors and Trustees are required to have compulsory safeguarding training as part of their induction and to maintain their knowledge through regular safeguarding training and updates. The safeguarding training at induction and indeed as part of continuous professional development should include Online Safety covering among other things an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles, and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring systems in place at the school. Through regular safeguarding training and updates staff are given the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively and governors/trustees will be empowered and equipped to provide strategic challenge and gain assurance that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place.

At Kobi Nazrul, we commit to external training at least biannually and internally every other year. We ensure we use the local training offer where staff can be trained with a knowledge of the local context. Governors are invited to all staff training and our link governor for safeguarding has additional training; including being Safer Recruitment trained.

19. VISITORS

As above – all visitors are asked to sign in where they receive information about the school (including health and safety and safeguarding). This is given upon signing in.

All school visitors have basic safeguarding induction and have appropriate DBS checks / risk assessments in place to support their visit. Please refer to Kobi Nazrul School Visitor Policy.

When a Social Worker, Police Officer or another professional visits the school to meet with a child as part of statutory investigations or other work, the ultimate safeguarding responsibility remains with the school. The school is

aware of the need for the child to have an appropriate adult when interviewed by the Police in accordance with the [PACE Code C statutory guidance](#).

20. EXTENDED SCHOOL AND OFF-SITE ARRANGEMENTS

At Kobi Nazrul, we have a separate risk assessment and lettings policy for extended and off site activities. Within our lettings policy, the safeguarding responsibilities are outlined. Off-site activities are checked and managed by our EVC who is also our Deputy DSL.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation outside of normal school hours, the school will seek assurance that the organisation has effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place. This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are pupils on the school register. The safeguarding standards expected of these external organisations, when they are not currently regulated, are set out in the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe during community activities, after school-clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school activities (April 2022). The school will ensure that all safeguarding requirements are set out clearly in the lease or hire agreement with the organisation, as a condition of use and occupation of the school premises; and that failure to comply would lead to the termination of the agreement.

21. IDENTIFYING ABUSE

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Abuse may be carried out by adults and other children.

The school is aware that children can be at risk of abuse, harm and exploitation beyond the family home. Extra familial harms include sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, and abuse that occurs on digital and online platforms. All staff especially the DSL and Deputy DSLs must consider whether children are at risk of harm and exploitation in environments outside the family home. All staff should therefore apply a Contextual Safeguarding approach when safeguarding children in the setting.

22. INDICATORS OF ABUSE

Physical - 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.

Sexual - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving 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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Emotional - 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 from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing 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.

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, for example, 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 care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

The school is aware of the borough's [LBTH Neglect Guidance](#) toolkit and all staff should understand their important frontline role in identifying children who may be suffering from Neglect.

23. VOICE OF THE CHILD

All those with a responsibility to safeguard children need to recognise that it takes great courage for a child to share a concern and speak up about any form of abuse especially child sexual abuse.

There are many reasons why children are not able to articulate what they are experiencing. Children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or are currently being threatened by the perpetrator of abuse. Also, children may not feel ready or know how to tell a trusted adult that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected. They may not even realise that their experiences are harmful.

The barriers preventing a child communicating their concerns may be connected to their vulnerability, disability, sexual orientation, or language. The child's behaviour **including misbehaviour** may be the first sign that a child has experienced harm. Staff will therefore exhibit professional curiosity and understand that a child may be communicating a concern through their actions and behaviours and take a safeguarding approach when responding to behaviours.

Staff need to be aware of and promote the systems in place at the school which enable children to share their concerns and report abuse confidently. Children need to be assured that their concerns will be taken seriously by staff and action will be taken to safeguard and protect them. It is also important that staff determine how best to build safe and trusted relationships with children and young people which facilitates communication and the sharing of concerns.

At Kobi Nazrul, there are many ways for children to voice their concerns. The most important one is through the strong and rusted relationships children have with adults at the school; this is what our children say and they also state they are confident and have a trusted adult they can talk to (Ofsted 2019). However, in addition to this, children have opportunities through; PSHE lessons, circle time or learning mentor sessions; including self-referral.

24. SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

25. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Apart from age other factors that could make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, include gender,

sexual identity, cognitive ability, learning difficulties, communication ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

CSE can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet. CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited, as they may believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship. Children may also be exploited by other children, who themselves may be experiencing exploitation – where this is the case, it is important that the child perpetrator is also recognised as a victim.

Staff should be vigilant and be aware of the following ~~Some of the following can~~ be indicators of CSE, which is by no means an exhaustive list, and reports all concerns immediately to the DSL:

- Children who are in possession of multiple phones and overly anxious to check their phones
- Children who experience sudden changes in behaviour e.g. looking agitated, children who want to leave the school premises at lunchtime
- children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.
- 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.

For further information staff can read the Home Office Statutory Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation as well as speaking to the DSL.

26. CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION INCLUDING COUNTY LINES

Child Criminal Exploitation is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country through County Lines, forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence, or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to

All Staff should be aware that girls as well as boys can be risk of CCE. It is important for staff to note that boys or girls being criminally exploited are at higher risk of being sexually exploited.

Staff need to be aware of some of the indicators of CCE:

- Children who are in possession of multiple phones and overly anxious to check their phones
- Children who experience sudden changes in behaviour e.g. looking agitated, children who want to leave the school premises at lunchtime
- 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.

County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools (mainstream and special), further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, children’s homes and care homes.

Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

Many of the indicators of children involved in County Lines are as described above under CCE. However, in addition they can include children who:

- go missing from education and/or home and subsequently found in areas away from their home;
- have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (e.g. knife crime);
- are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs;
- are exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection;
- are found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a ‘traphouse or cuckooing’ or hotel room where there is drug activity;
- owe a ‘debt bond’ to their exploiters;
- have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing

Further information on the signs of a child’s involvement in county lines is available in guidance published by the Home Office and The Children’s Society [County Lines Toolkit For Professionals](#).

As a school, particularly in Tower Hamlets, we are aware of the increasing vulnerability of children under the age of 10 being involved in County Lines (see: KCSiE 2021) and part of our safeguarding and child protection training has this built in.

27. SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

All staff are aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may 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, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

28. ONLINE HARMS

Children should have the right to explore the digital environment but also the right to be safe when on it. However, technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm, and the use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Examples of which include child sexual exploitation; child criminal exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation/grooming; and forms of child-on-child abuse **such as cyberbullying and nudes and semi-nudes**.

In many cases abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. Children can also abuse ~~their peers~~ **other children** online, which can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content. **In accordance with Behaviour in Schools. Advice for headteachers and school staff (September 2022), the school promotes as part of its culture of excellent standards of behaviour that the same standards of behaviour are expected online as apply offline, and that every pupil should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity.**

An effective approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk that should form the framework for school's approach to Online Safety:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racism, prejudice-based content, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example, peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults with the intention of grooming or exploiting 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 or non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes), and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying.
- Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. When pupils are at risk of phishing, school can reports concerns to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org/>).

Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer).

When there are concerns about a child in this area, staff should notify the DSL, who will consider referring the child into the Cyber Choices programme (cyberchoices.uk), which provides early intervention where children are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

In accordance with the Prevent Duty the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place when children access the internet via school devices and when using the school network. The school meets the Department for Education's Filtering and Monitoring Standards through

- identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.
- reviewing filtering and monitoring provision at least annually.
- blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.

Filtering and monitoring

At Kobi Nazrul:

Filtering is done at LGFL who have filters in place to block obvious sites such as porn, gambling etc we can also block certain websites locally depending on the school policy such as facebook, Instagram etc

The Headteacher has responsibility of making sure filters are in place. By signing up with LGFL, the most dangerous sites are blocked by default. Through policy, the school determines which sites should be allowed on the school network. This is delegated to the Computing lead to action. For eg the school decided to open a twitter account therefore unblocking twitter.

The schools network is filtered at the host level by LGFL and locally by the school. Therefore, all devices that run off the school network will have appropriate filtering.

All children are monitored when using school devices. Please also see Acceptable Use policy.

School is committed to ensuring that Online Safety is a running and interrelated theme throughout its safeguarding arrangements including policy and procedure, the curriculum, staff training and induction, the role of the DSL, and parental engagement. This includes promoting an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring systems in place when children access the internet via school devices and the school network.

As part of a whole school approach the school is committed to ensure that all parents have the opportunity to be empowered and upskilled in keeping children safe online through the sharing of Online Safety information, advice and guidance including the offer of workshops to support parents for example in installing safeguards on to their children's digital devices.

Please all see alongside this policy: Pupil Behaviour Policy, the school's Acceptable Use Agreement for staff and pupils.

This is reviewed annually and all staff reviewing this is part of our September INSET day annually.

Staff should report Online Safety concerns about pupils to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as with all other safeguarding concerns. When it comes to the safety and well-being of the child, the response to the risks and harms that children may experience in the online or digital environment should be no different than the offline, face to face world. For most children there is little distinction between the online and face to face interactions as the two environments often intersect with one another in their daily lives. Staff should recognise that children's experience of abuse in the digital environment may be

even more pronounced, where the identity of the abuser is unknown and the abuse can continue 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Staff should be aware that children with known vulnerabilities such as SEND, LAC and PLAC children and Children known to a Social Worker, may be more vulnerable to harm and exploitation in the online and digital environments.

29. DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse recognises that domestic abuse may occur in different types of relationships, including ex-partners and family members. Domestic Abuse may involve a range of abusive behaviours, which may be a single incident or a pattern of abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse, and coercive and controlling behaviour.

Staff should be aware that all children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children and have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home because of the abuse. Children can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of child-on-child abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'.

School has signed up to the Metropolitan Police's Operation Encompass system and on receipt of a notification from the Police will provide appropriate support to the child or children concerned, who attend the school. Operation Encompass ensures that when police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, and where there are children in the household, the police will inform the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead before the child or children arrive at school the following day. The purpose of Operation Encompass is to enable the school to provide 'silent support' and is not intended to replace statutory procedures.

30. SO-CALLED HONOUR-BASED ABUSE

[Section needs to cover awareness of FGM, Forced Marriage, practices such as breast-ironing, including definitions]

All forms of so-called Honour Based Abuse are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of Honour Based Abuse, or already having suffered Honour Based Abuse.

If staff have a concern regarding a child who might be at risk of Honour Based Abuse or who has suffered from Honour Based Abuse, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will follow local safeguarding procedures.

Female Genital Mutilation

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, FGM is a criminal offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Also see the HM Government Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance on FGM, Updated 30th July 2020

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers**, along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases may face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should **not** be examining pupils or students. Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. However, teachers should notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead of this action as well as reporting the disclosure of FGM in line with school's safeguarding procedures.

Staff need to understand that the duty on teachers to report to the police does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures and report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. If in doubt, staff should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Forced Marriage

In England and Wales, the practice of Forced Marriage is a criminal offence under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Since February 2023 it has also 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. Schools and colleges play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

School and college staff should contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fm@fcdo.gov.uk.

Also reference the Forced Marriage Unit's Statutory Guidance and Multi Agency Guidelines The Right to Choose Updated June 2022

Virginity Testing and Hymenoplasty

The government has made it illegal to carry out, offer or aid and abet virginity testing or hymenoplasty in any part of the UK, as part of the Health and Care Act 2022.

It is also illegal for UK nationals and residents to do these things outside the UK.

In response to any reports of a child/young person being subject to or at risk of virginity testing or hymenoplasty, the DSL will take action in accordance with the government's non-statutory guidance [Virginity testing and hymenoplasty: multi-agency guidance](#) (July 2022).

31. RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk is part of the school's safeguarding approach.

- 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 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.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home).

Cross-reference to Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty, which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism. Paragraphs 57-76 pertain to schools.

We also complete and review Prevent Risk Assessment and Prevent Checklists as part of our Prevent Duty. We have formal training at least bi-annually but use other systems for updates and smaller 'chunks' of training such as phase meetings and briefings.

We use the Jigsaw scheme of PSHE work to deliver relevant parts in the curriculum to enable pupils to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture and how the school promotes fundamental British Values as part of SMCS (spiritual, moral, social and cultural education). This is also done through our PSHE assemblies

In LBTH the Prevent Education Officer is Iona Karrman-Bailey <Iona.Karrman-Bailey@towerhamlets.gov.uk>

In LBTH all Prevent referrals related to children should be made through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

32. PEER ON PEER ABUSE

Staff must be aware that children may be harmed by other children.

Peer on Peer Abuse can happen both inside and outside of school including online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of peer on peer abuse.

Staff should treat all reports of peer on peer abuse very seriously and make it clear that all forms are unacceptable. **As with all forms of abuse the occurrence of child-on-child abuse is an infringement of a child's human rights.** is abuse and will never be dismissed as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. School adopts a Zero Tolerance Approach to peer on peer abuse.

All staff should recognise that even though there are no reported cases of peer on peer abuse among pupils, such abuse may still be taking place and it is simply not being reported.

Staff should be aware that it is more likely that boys will be perpetrators of peer on peer abuse and girls will be victims of peer on peer abuse. However, all forms of peer on peer abuse are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at the school.

Staff should recognise that peer on peer abuse can take many forms and may be facilitated by technology, including:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- physical abuse such as biting, hitting, kicking or hair pulling
- sexually harmful behaviour and sexual abuse including inappropriate sexual language, touching, sexual assault or rape
- 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-nudes images and/or videos
- teenage relationship abuse – where there is a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, perpetrated against a current or former partner
- upskirting – taking a picture under a person's clothing without their knowledge and/or permission with the intention of viewing their buttocks or genitals (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification. It is a criminal offence
- initiation/hazing - used to introduce newcomers into an organisation or group by subjecting them to a series of trials and challenges, which are potentially humiliating, embarrassing or abusive.

- prejudice and discrimination - behaviours which cause a person to feel powerless, worthless or excluded originating from prejudices around belonging, identity and equality, for example, prejudices linked to disabilities, special educational needs, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, gender and sexual identity.

Different gender issues can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse, for example girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to initiation/hazing type violence.

Although a child identifying as LGBTQ+ is not in itself a safeguarding concern, such children may be more vulnerable to forms of child-on-child abuse. This includes children who are perceived to be LGBTQ+ even though they do not identify as such. The school is committed to providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ children to share any concerns they may have and in ensuring an inclusive culture is maintained.

At Kobi Nazrul, procedures to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse include:

- Jigsaw lessons
- Assemblies around these themes
- A strong and consistent behavior management policy

Issues will be recorded on our vulnerable children's tracker and in case files. Should this occur, the correct support would be identified through highlighting meetings which may include; learning mentor support, reasonable adjustments to their school day or a referral for external support.

33. CHILD-ON-CHILD SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

All staff must be aware that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex and it can happen in any environment including schools, the family home as part of intra-familial abuse and via online platforms. It can also occur when a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or a group of children. The abuse may be perpetrated by a younger child towards an older child because of an imbalance of power caused by factors such as height difference or cognitive ability.

As part of school's wider safeguarding culture, staff should maintain an '**it could happen here**' approach in regard to child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment and understand that children in the school and the local community

may be experiencing such forms of child-on-child abuse, including that facilitated by technology, regardless of the number of reports the DSL receives.

In response to reports of child-on-child abuse school will reassure all victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor will a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. As part of the reassurance to children, it will be made clear to children that the law is in place to protect them from abuse rather than to criminalise them.

Staff should be aware that some groups of children are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBTQ+ children are at greater risk.

Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- challenging inappropriate behaviours;
- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting upskirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours will help to normalise them.

Sexual violence offences are defined under the Sexual Offences Act 2003

Rape: A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Assault by Penetration: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (Schools should be aware that sexual assault covers a very wide range of behaviour so a single act of kissing someone without consent, or touching someone's bottom/breasts/genitalia without consent, can still constitute sexual assault.)

Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally causes another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.)

Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.

All Staff need to be aware of the following:

- children under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity;
- the age of consent is 16
- sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this will be referred to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of referring to the police remains. In parallel to this the school will make a referral to Children's Social Care via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline and both inside and outside of school. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Sexual Harassment may include the following:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;
- sexual “jokes” or taunting;
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes (schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence - it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and
- online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence such as:
 - consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos.
 - sharing of unwanted explicit content;
 - upskirting
 - sexualised online bullying
 - unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media
 - sexual exploitation, co-ercion and threats

On a case-by-case basis the school will liaise with Children’s Social Care and the Police as well as specialist services as part of the immediate response to child-on-child sexual harassment and the ongoing support for all the children involved.

Harmful Sexual Behaviours

Children’s sexual behaviour exists on a wide continuum, ranging from normal and developmentally expected to inappropriate, problematic, abusive and violent. School recognises that Harmful Sexual Behaviours can, in some cases, progress on a continuum. It is therefore important for all staff to address inappropriate behaviours to help prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Children displaying harmful sexual behaviours have often experienced their own abuse and trauma.

School takes seriously its duty to respond appropriately to all reports and concerns about children’s sexual behaviours both online and offline, in and

outside of the school, including reports of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. The DSL has completed relevant training in responding to and managing harmful sexual behaviours and will draw upon appropriate resources such as the AIM Checklists and Assessment Tools. The DSL will liaise where appropriate with Children's Services, the Police and other specialist services.

At Kobi Nazrul, when a child reports this, we follow our procedures for safeguarding and child protection where the focus will be around a risk assessment and ongoing support for the child in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 Part 5.

34. Youth Produced Sexual Imagery

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery is one of the terms professionals use to describe the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams by children and young people under the age of 18 online. The term 'nudes' is used by young people and covers all types of image sharing incidents. Alternative terms used by children include 'dick pics' or 'pics'.

The sharing of nudes and semi-nudes can happen publicly online, in 1:1 messaging or via group chats and closed social media accounts. It could also involve sharing between devices via services like Apple's AirDrop which works offline. Nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams may include more than one child or young person.

Incidents may also occur where:

- children and young people find nudes and semi-nudes online and share them claiming to be from a peer
- children and young people digitally manipulate an image of a young person into an existing nude online
- images created or shared are used to abuse peers e.g. by selling images online or obtaining images to share more widely without consent to publicly shame. Such images can be shared via web pages and social media accounts called 'Bait Out' pages/accounts.

Creating and sharing nudes and semi-nudes of under-18s (including those created and shared with consent) is illegal.

When handling disclosures of Youth Produced Sexual Imagery, staff must be aware that it is illegal for staff to view or share such imagery. Staff should immediately report the disclosure to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

35. BULLYING (INCLUDING CYBERBULLYING)

Bullying is a very serious issue that can cause anxiety and distress. All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying should be reported and will be managed through the school's Anti-Bullying Policy/Pupil Behaviour Policy/Child-on-child abuse Policy, [in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and Behaviour in Schools. Advice for Head teacher and School Staff \(September 2022\).](#)

Please also see school behavior and anti-bullying policy.

36. HOMELESSNESS

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new legal duty on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help including an assessment of their needs and circumstances, the development of a personalised housing plan, and work to help them retain their accommodation or find a new place to live.

The DSL will raise concerns at the earliest opportunity about a family at risk of homelessness through the [Tower Hamlets Homeless and Housing Options service](#).

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. However, it is also recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Local authority children's social care will be the lead agency for these children and should be contacted in the first instance. [For general enquiries about support for young people who might be at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the borough, please contact Tower Hamlets Housing Options: \[Host@towerhamlets.gov.uk\]\(mailto:Host@towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](#)

For more information, please see part 1, Annex B as a basis

37. CHILDREN AND THE COURT SYSTEM

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age appropriate guides to support children 5-11-year olds and 12-17 year olds. The guides explain each step of the process, support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained. Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched an online child arrangements information tool with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service. This may be useful for some parents and carers.

38. CHILDREN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRISON

Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. The National Information Centre on Children of Offenders, NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children

39. PRIVATE FOSTERING

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a “close relative”. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage/affinity).’

If you become aware that a child is being privately fostered, please notify a child protection officer. They will then notify the local authority of the circumstances, and the local authority will check that the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child.

Private fostering is considered to be so after 28 days.

40. YOUNG CARERS

Young carers are ‘children who help look after a member of the family who is sick, disabled or has mental health problems, or is misusing drugs or alcohol. Their day to day responsibilities often include cooking, cleaning, shopping, providing nursing and personal care, and giving emotional support’. (From www.barnardos.org.uk) Many bilingual children also have interpreting responsibilities for monolingual parents and carers with health issues – attending appointments at the hospital, for example.

Support can be offered to young carers through Early Help and EHA procedures.

It is estimated by the Children's Society that 1 in 5 children are young carers and many are hidden and unidentified. School recognises that Young carers have the right to an assessment by the local authority to identify needs and support and the person they are caring for can have a reassessment of their needs. The DSL will follow the LBTH guidance for schools, 'Young Carers in School: A guide for education practitioners to identify and support young carers in schools' (January 2023) and refer to the Young Carers program accordingly: Young.Carers@towerhamlets.gov.uk

41. CHILD ABDUCTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY INCIDENTS

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a child from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers.

All incidents of Child Abduction should be reported immediately to the Police and Children's Social Care.

Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school can raise concerns amongst staff, children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation. All incidents that occur during the school day should be immediately reported to the DSL, and steps taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the children involved.

42. MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including: sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims and how to refer them to the National Referral Mechanism is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance.

43. TAKING SAFEGUARDING ACTION

Any child, in any family in any school could become a victim of abuse. Staff should always maintain an attitude of “it could happen here”. Key points for staff to remember are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child (including calling 999)
- report your concern as soon as possible to the DSL, no later than the end of the day. At Kobi Nazrul, we aim to organize appropriate cover / health and safety measures so that this can be reported straight away.
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a record of concern electronically using the blue form but a paper form if necessary. These are located around the school: HT, DHT/AHT office, front desk, staff room)
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

44. EARLY HELP

All staff are trained and prepared to identify children who may benefit from Early Help, which is providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. **This can be support provided through school's internal pastoral system and resources and/or Local Authority services and other external agencies.**

The Tower Hamlets Early Help Strategy recognises the important role schools have in identifying children and families who are at risk of poor outcomes without early intervention.

All staff need to recognise that all children may benefit from Early Help at any point in their childhood, but some children may benefit from Early Help more than others. These are children with known vulnerabilities, which are listed on page 9 of this policy.

At Kobi Nazrul, we have a highlighting system where any member of staff can identify a concern they may have about a child so that the school can intervene early with support.

The highlighting team meet twice half termly to go through the 'pink forms' that staff send electronically. In addition to this, all members of the highlighting team (3 x DSLs + Inclusion Assistant) are automatically sent the concern so that we have the information straight away and can take action prior to a highlighting meeting if necessary.

We also use pupil progress meetings with class teachers as a way of identifying need that doesn't meet any local thresholds but where we as a school can support or refer to another agency for support.

As a school we will initiate TACs or TAFs and take a lead on this where appropriate and drawing in other agencies / family members as appropriate.

The Tower Hamlets Early Help Strategy recognises the important role schools have in identifying children and families who are at risk of poor outcomes without early intervention.

All staff recognise that all children may benefit from Early Help but some children may benefit from Early Help more than others, including a child who:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan);
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- has returned home to their family from care; and
- is a privately fostered child.

The DSL will contact the LBTH Early Help Hub for support and advice if required:

LBTH Early Help Hub:

0207 364 5006 (option 2)

Alternatively, the DSL will complete an Early Help Enquiry form which can be accessed via <https://bit.ly/2AA2WNy>

Social Inclusion Panel

When an EHA has been completed and a Team Around the Family is in process, the school can refer to the borough's Social Inclusion Panel in support of a co-ordinated and targeted plan to bring about improvement in the child's outcomes.

The DSL will apply the LBTH Thresholds Guidance to decide what level of safeguarding response is required as part of the Early Help response. If in doubt about the level of need the DSL will telephone the LBTH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for a discussion.

MASH:

020 7364 5006 (Option 3) 020 7364 5601/5606

Child Protection Advice Line

020 7364 3444

If a child has been receiving Early Help support from the school and other agencies and there is no improvement in the child's outcomes, then the DSL must refer the child to Children's Social Care.

45. HANDLING DISCLOSURES

When a child discloses that they have been or are being abused including exploitation and neglect, they may feel ashamed, especially if the abuse is sexual, and feel frightened lest their abuser finds out they have made a disclosure. The child may have been threatened, they may have lost all trust in adults; or may believe that they are to blame for the abuse. Sometimes the child may not understand that what is happening is abusive.

All staff should reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim 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.

Staff should never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child. During their conversations with the pupils, staff will:

- allow the child to speak freely
- remain calm
- allow silences
- do not ask leading questions
- tell the pupil what will happen next
- inform the DSL as soon as possible
- seek support if they feel distressed.

46. CONFIDENTIALITY AND SHARING INFORMATION

Staff should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe. They should be mindful that early information sharing is vital for effective identification, assessment and allocation of appropriate service provision. Serious Case Reviews have highlighted failures in safeguarding systems in which people did not share information at the earliest opportunity or did not share at all. If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

All staff should understand that safeguarding requires a high level of confidentiality. Staff should only discuss concerns with the DSL, Deputy DSL or the headteacher.

Any member of staff can contact children's social care if they are concerned about a child but should inform the DSL as soon as possible that they have done so.

The DSL will have due regard to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to ensure that personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and they will adhere to the seven golden rules for sharing information. Information sharing will take place in a timely and secure manner. The GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, as safeguarding and protecting children provide a legal basis for sharing information.

Information sharing decisions will be recorded, whether or not the decision to share has been taken. Child protection information will be stored securely separate from the pupil's school file. Child protection information is stored and handled in line with the school's Retention and Destruction Policy.

Where safeguarding information is stored electronically and online, the school has cybersecurity measures in place, which meets the Department for Education's [Cybersecurity Standards](#), to ensure the data is safe and not vulnerable to evolving cyber-crime.

47. REFERRING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

The DSL will make a referral to children's social care applying the LBTH Threshold Guidance if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, or the child is considered to be in need, that is a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services.

LBTH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub:
020 7364 5006 (Option 3) 020 7364 5601/5606

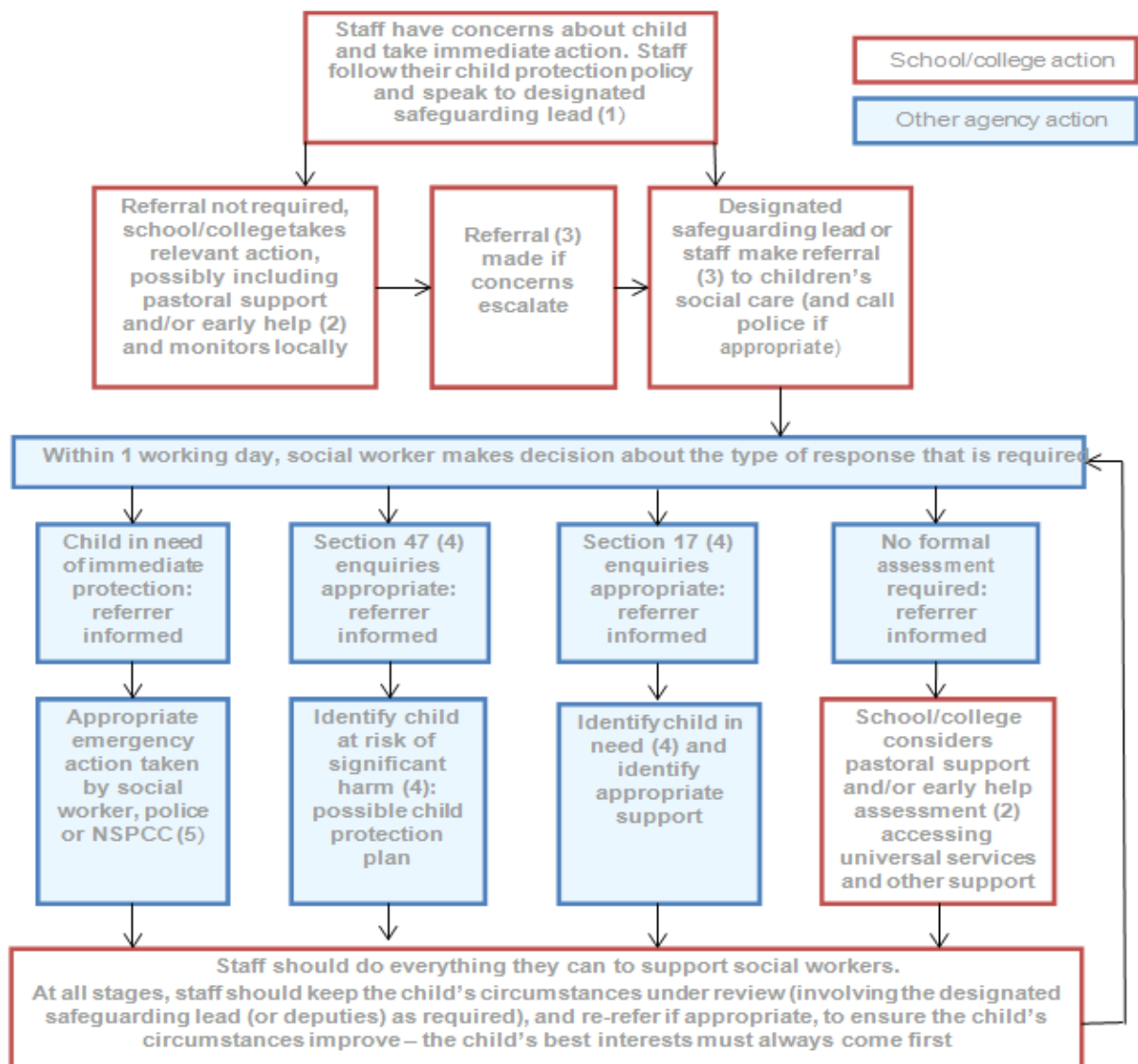
Child Protection Advice Line:
020 7364 3444

When the DSL completes a MASH referral form and sends it securely to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, the referral form will be accurate and sufficiently detailed to enable the MASH Assessment and Intervention Team to make a decision on the level of statutory response required.

If the child is already known to Children's Social Care, then the DSL will communicate safeguarding concerns with the allocated Social Worker.

When the DSL completes a MASH referral form and sends it securely to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, the referral form will be accurate and sufficiently detailed to enable the MASH Assessment and Intervention Team to make a decision on the level of statutory response.

If the child is already known to Children's Social Care, then the DSL will communicate safeguarding concerns with the allocated Social Worker.



48. ESCALATION PROCEDURES

If, after a referral to Children's Social Care, the child's situation does not appear to be improving, the DSL will consider following local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and that the child's situation improves.

In accordance with the Tower Hamlets Threshold Guidance (Appendix D) the DSL will first make contact with the team manager followed by the service manager followed by the divisional director. At every level of escalation there should be discussion and concerted effort to resolve any professional

difference. It is important that the DSL at each point of escalation puts the concerns in writing.

Appendix 1: MASH Poster

Appendix 2: School Record of Concern Form (if not online)

Appendix 3: MASH Interagency Referral Form