OVERSTONE PARK SCHOOL

**Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**



**Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**

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| **Date** | **Review Date** | **Coordinators** |
| **August** | **August** | **Mrs D York – Designated Safeguarding Lead** |
| **2024** | **2025** | **Miss A West – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead** |
|  | **or as** | **Mrs S Salas – Designated Safeguarding Lead of** |
|  | **required** | **Children in Care** |
|  |  | **Ms J Sinnamon – Deputy Designated Safeguarding** |
|  |  | **Lead** |
|  |  | **Mr S Brown - Director for Safeguarding** |
|  |  | **Mr Alex Neophitou - Safeguarding consultant - Focus** |
|  |  | **Education** |

List of related legislation and documentation

Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2014 (as amended from time to time)

* **The Independent School Standards Guidance for independent schools April 2019**
* **Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees (Charity Commission, June 2022)**
* **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006Children and Human Rights Act**
* **The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012**
* **The Children Act 2004**
* **What to do if you’re worried a Child is being Abused March 2015 |**
* **Children and Human Rights Act**
* **Working Together to Safeguard Children December 2023 (A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and**

promote the welfare of children)

* **Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024**
* **Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 September 2018**
* **Information Sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services July 2018**
* **DBS Referrals Guidance (as may be amended from time to time)**
* **Teacher misconduct: regulating the teaching profession March 2014 (and related guidance)**
* **Use of Reasonable Force in Schools July 2013**
* **Preventing and Tackling Bullying July 2017**
* **Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges (from September 2021)**
* **Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools November 2018**
* **Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) September 2021**
* **Prevent Duty Guidance December 2023, Channel Guidance December 2023, and Prevent guidance for those with safeguarding responsibilities September 2023**
* **The use of social media for online radicalisation July 2015**
* **Teaching Online Safety in School June 2019**
* **Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people UKCIS**

December 2020

* **Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2019**
* **When to call the police: guidance for schools & colleges NPCC**
* **Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges March 2022**
* **Children and Human Rights Act**
* **Act 2002 [or section 157 of the Education Act 2002 for independent schools and academies.**
* **Departmental advice Sexual Violence and Sexual 2018**

## The rationale behind safeguarding at Overstone Park.

Every action Overstone Park School takes, starts with the safeguarding and the welfare of our pupils. We take a whole school approach, understanding that everyone carries some of this responsibility, and work to support this with the appropriate training, policies, and, most importantly, the right attitude.

Safeguarding and the welfare of children are fully related to our school values of care and making a positive difference in our pupils’ lives. Our priority is the care of our children, and we take great pride in the robust pastoral culture that permeates the school. Equally, we are aware that, should we have any concerns about a pupil or a member of our

community, we must have a cultural environment that encourages people to speak out. Everyone's contribution is therefore essential, with the knowledge that "it could happen here" and the conviction that we are a group of adults and children working together to build a secure, compassionate, and meaningful community. This is summed up in the

concept and feeling of Connection, Collaboration and Communication, where pupils feel like they belong and where appropriate and beneficial interactions are developed in a

school community that work together to protect our children.

This policy is formulated to uphold our fundamental values of keeping our pupils safe and caring for them to make a positive difference in their lives.

# Key people and roles

Principal Mrs Marion Brown

Contact: Telephone: 01604 969232 Email: opschool@aol.com

Designated Safeguarding Lead and Prevent single point of contact (SPOC) Mrs Dawn York

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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Ashleigh West

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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Ms Julieanne Sinnamon

Email: j.sinnamon@opschool.org.uk

Designated Teacher of Children in Care: Mrs Sarah Salas

Email: s.salas@opschool.org.uk

Designated Teacher of Children in Care: Miss Sophie Smith

Email: s.smith@opschool.org.uk

Health and Safety officers and Fire Wardens Mr C Warner

Email: c.warner@opschool.org.uk

Mr Tommy Cartwright

Email: t.cartwright@opschool.org.uk

## Governance and professional advisors

Proprietor and Principal

Mrs Marion Brown

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Mr Corville Brown Proprietor

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Mrs Dawn York Deputy Head /DSL

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Mr Ron Frater OBE

Independent person for Overstone Park School Email: ron.frater@putlook.com

Mr Daniel Da Silva

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School security

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Pest Control Simon Faulkner

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External Online safety consultantancy David Barreau

Simply IT

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Animal Care Ark Farm

Mr F Bairstow

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Towester Vets

Email: admin@towcestervets.co.uk

# The purpose of safeguarding

At Overstone Park School, we understand our pivotal role in safeguarding and protecting children as well as educating and supporting pupils in school socially, emotionally,

mentally and academically. The purpose of safeguarding as set out in this policy is to protect and advance the welfare, safety, and health of our pupils by cultivating an environment that is safe, transparent, compassionate, and encouraging.

This involves:

* **protecting children from maltreatment**
* **preventing the impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development.**
* **ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.**
* **taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.**
* **encouraging pupils to come to us with their problems and anxieties and to talk about them.**
* **ensuring that the safety, emotional and physical well-being of pupils is always our priority.**
* **providing children with a secure and safe environment in which to develop and learn.**
* **ensuring that we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.**
* **developing and subsequently implementing procedures to detect and report suspected instances of maltreatment occurring both within and beyond the school.**
* **raising awareness and providing assistance to pupils whose social care is involved as specified in their Child Protection Plan, Child in Need Plan, or who are under the care of the local authority.**
* **educating children about child protection processes and safeguarding children, as well as providing them with the necessary tools to ensure their safety both inside and outside of school.**

## Safer recruitment and training

Safer recruiting procedures at the school adhere to the legislative directive "Keeping

children safe in education 2024, Part Three: Safer recruitment." (Refer to Overstone Park School safer recruitment policy).

All new staff and volunteers receive a safeguarding induction and are briefed on the code of conduct for adults working with children, including training and the reading of the

safeguarding policy and statutory guidance. The school promotes a continuous culture of vigilance and addresses safeguarding duties throughout staff meetings as part of its open safeguarding ethos, fostering an ongoing culture of vigilance. Safeguarding updates are

shared with all staff on a regular basis.

Every school staff recruiting process has at least one (teacher, management, or Governance member) who has completed safer recruitment training in accordance with legal requirements.

Upon request for references, where concerns have been raised regarding inappropriate behaviour or child protection, the school will furnish all relevant information.

Cases in which an allegation has been judged to be:

* **Unfounded**
* **Unsubstantiated**
* **False**
* **Or malicious**

will not be used in employer references.

## Training

At Overstone Park School, we ensure that all staff have the following up to date

safeguarding training. This is reviewed annually with regard to changes in national and statutory updates:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Training** | **Who is it for?** | **Frequency** |
| **Safeguarding Level 3** | **DSL, DDSL and****Safeguarding Governance** | **Every 2 years** |
| **ADHD Awareness** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Administration of Medication in Schools** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Autism Awareness** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Child Protection in Education** | **All school-based staff and Governance.** | **Yearly** |
| **Child-on-Child Sexual****Violence and Harassment** | **All school-based staff and Governance.** | **Yearly** |
| **Female Genital Mutilation Awareness** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Fire Safety in Education** | **All school-based staff and****Governance.** | **Yearly** |
| **First Aid Essentials** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Health and Safety in Education: Senior Leadership and Management** | **Senior Leadership Management and Governance** | **Yearly** |
| **Health and Safety in****Education: Staff Awareness** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 Part 1 Questionnaire** | **All school-based staff and Governance** | **Yearly** |
| **Looked After Children** | **Designated teachers and staff****All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Online Safety** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Preventing Bullying** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Safeguarding Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities** | **All school-based staff and Governance.** | **Yearly** |
| **Safeguarding Young People** | **All school-based staff and Governance** | **Yearly** |
| **Safer Recruitment in Education** | **Senior Leadership and Management** | **Yearly** |
| **The Prevent Duty** | **All school-based staff and****Governance** | **Yearly** |
| **Use of Reasonable Force in****Schools** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Moving and Handling** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Equality and Diversity** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **The SEND Code of Practice** | **All school-based staff and Governance** | **Yearly** |
| **Food Hygiene & Safety** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Risk Assessments for****School Trips** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |
| **Child Protection Refresher 2024** | **All school-based staff and Governance** | **Yearly** |
| **An Induction to Speech, Language and****Communication Needs** | **All school-based staff** | **Yearly** |

## Child Protection

At Overstone Park School, we believe that the protection of children should be an integral part of the ethos of everyone; and that this should be a 'listening' environment which seeks to create an atmosphere in which children feel secure, valued and supported, and

that they are encouraged to talk and are listened to, where children feel able to report issues of concern to staff.

We recognise that the safety and protection of pupils is the responsibility of all school personnel and volunteers as they are in a unique position to notice injuries, marks or bruises when children are undertaking certain activities which might indicate a child has been abused. We believe that we must report and investigate all injuries for the safety and protection of the children in our care.

We acknowledge that children can be harmed physically, emotionally, sexually or by neglect. It is our duty to report any concerns that we have of child abuse as the health,

safety and protection of all children is paramount. We are aware that if abuse is suspected by another child, then child protection procedures will be applied to both children.

Staff will be aware of classifications of abuse as seen in ‘Keeping Children Safe in

Education’ 2024 and the signs and indicators of abuse (some signs and indicators may vary depending on the age of the child). Staff should be made aware that the list is not

exhaustive, is purely a guide, and evidence of one or more of these doesn’t necessarily indicate evidence of abuse. However, staff should always report anything that makes

them feel uncomfortable to a Designated Safeguarding lead.

Overstone Park School acknowledges that every adult present at the school bears

responsibility for child protection. Through suitable information posting on the school website and appropriate awareness raising in our interactions with parents, we will make sure that all parents and other working partners are aware of our child safety policy.

**Early Help:**

If early help is appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as

appropriate. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment, in some cases acting as the lead practitioner. Further guidance on effective assessment of the need for early help can be found in Working Together to

Safeguard Children. Any such cases should be kept under constant review and

consideration given to a referral to local authority children’s social care for assessment for statutory services if the child’s situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse.

**Children in need:**

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as 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; or a child who is disabled. Local authorities are required to provide services for

children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

## Indicators of abuse

Abuse, neglect, exploitation and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by

others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

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

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun ’of what they say or how they

communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child’s

developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child 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.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or nonpenetrative 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. The sexual

abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education.

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, because of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food,

clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

## Examples of abuse:

**Child on child abuse**

Overstone Park School recognises that children sometimes display abusive behaviour themselves and that even if there are no reports, it may still be happening. The school

adopts a zero-tolerance approach to child-on-child abuse. Incidents or allegations must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention. This type of abuse can happen both inside and outside school and it is important that all staff recognise the need to report any concerns they have. Such abuse will not be tolerated or passed off as “banter, just having a laugh, part of growing up or boys being boys”; as this can lead to a culture of

unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

Staff must challenge pupils when they come across behaviour of this type so that we can ensure our pupils are able to feel confident and safe in the school environment.

We have also developed appropriate policies and procedures to deal with child-on-child

sexual violence and sexual harassment, including those that have happened outside of the school or college premises and/or online, forms of harassment and harmful sexual

behaviour. Every member of the staff, volunteer, Governance, or school visitor is required to adhere to these policies.

**Examples of pupils ’conduct towards each other that could raise safeguarding concerns are:**

* **Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).**
* **Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers.**
* **Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates,**

threatens and/or encourages physical abuse).

* **Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence).**
* **Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.**
* **Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing**

someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi- nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery).

* **Upskirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing**

without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.

* **Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).**

This may be experienced by both boys and girls; however, girls are more likely to be the victims and boys’ perpetrators. Some pupils may be more at risk of harm from specific issues such as sexual violence, homophobic, biphobia or transphobic bullying or racial

discrimination. We will therefore take positive action to create a culture of support and to ensure that girls and vulnerable groups such as LGBTQ+ and pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds feel confident to bring forward any concerns and have a safe space to talk to trusted staff about their experiences.

To address these issues, separate safeguarding policies and guidelines are available from the local authority and schools through the Safeguarding Children Partnership. These

include the Online Safety(E-safety) policy, the Personal Relationships policy, the Antibullying policy, the DfE guidance, and Part 5 of "Keeping children safe in education."

Additionally refer to "Guidance for schools working with children who display harmful sexual behaviour."

Every child will be educated about alternate methods of reporting child-on-child abuse both within and outside of school. All occurrences of child-on-child abuse should be reported to a trusted adult in the school. We want to ensure that children don’t feel embarrassed or that they are causing trouble by voicing their concerns—instead, they'll always be treated seriously and respectfully.

It is acknowledged that the absence of reporting does not imply that abuse of this kind is not occurring. It might just be that no one has reported it. The accusation should be

submitted to the Designated Safeguarding Lead first and will likely be handled in accordance with the school's behavioural policy, depending on its nature.

A risk assessment will be conducted if specific risks are detected and if dangers are found in order to guarantee the security of all staff and pupils and to provide the necessary

assistance. See Policy for further information on how child-on-child abuse will be addressed.

The following steps will be taken to minimise the risk of child-child abuse:

* **Promotion of a supportive environment by teaching about acceptable and unacceptable behaviours (including online) in both assemblies and the wider curriculum e.g., RSE and PHSE.**
* **Clear procedures put in place to govern the use of mobile phones in school.**

Appropriate staff supervision of pupils and identifying locations around the school site that are less visible and may present more risk to pupils.

## Domestic abuse

This can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. Staff will refer concerns to the DSL and where the police have attended an incident of domestic abuse and school receive an “Operation Encompass” call or electronic notification, any pupil who may have been impacted will be supported. Where a child may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs the Designated Safeguarding Lead will use

this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child’s safety, welfare and educational outcomes.

## Serious Violence

Numerous risk indicators in children linked to serious violence include:

* **increased absence from school**
* **changes in friendships or relationships with older people or groups**
* **a notable drop in performance**
* **indications of self-harm or a major change in wellbeing**
* **indications of assault or unexplained injuries**

These will be made known to staff, along with the other risk factors including being male, having been permanently excluded from school or absent a lot, having witnessed child abuse, and having committed crimes like robbery or theft—that raise the possibility of involvement in serious violence. These risks will be made more known to staff through training, and any issues will be forwarded to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for

coordination of a safeguarding response.

## So-called ‘honour-based ’abuse (HBA)

Crimes caused to preserve or defend the so-called "honour" of the family and/or the

community are referred to as “honour-based" abuse (HBA), and include forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and breast ironing. Whatever the intent, any so-called

HBA is abuse, and any concerns will be forwarded to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for necessary referral.

## Modern slavery and human trafficking

**This can take on many forms, including sexual exploitation, force. Staff need to be aware of indicators which include but are not limited to:**

* **neglect**
* **isolation**
* **poor living conditions**
* **having few personal belongings**
* **a lack of trust and reluctance to seek help**

**Staff will refer any concerns to the DSL without delay who will act and refer victims to the National Referral Mechanism (**[**www.gov.uk**](http://www.gov.uk/)**).**

## Private fostering arrangements

Where a child under 16 (or 18 with a disability) is living with someone who is not their family or a close relative for 28 days or more, staff inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead so that a referral to Children’s Social Care for a safety check, can be made. (A close relative includes stepparent, grandparents, uncle, aunt or sibling).

## Children Absent or Missing from School

Understanding that every child is entitled to an education, Overstone Park School will

collaborate closely with the Local Authority Inclusion Service to exchange information on students where there are unexplainable and/or persistent absences from school in order to keep them from becoming a child who is missing from education. We also understand the negative effects that student absence from school has on learning, advancement, and educational achievement.

Where children are to be removed from the school register for any of the following reasons: -

1. **to be educated outside of the school system.**
2. **for medical reasons.**
3. **because they have stopped attending.**
4. **because they are in jail; or**
5. **because they have been permanently excluded the local authority will also be notified.**

We also understand that children missing from education may have been the target of drug-related criminals or perpetrators of child sexual exploitation (County Lines). Other types of criminal exploitation, include serious violence and violent crime. Children may also be groomed into participating in these forms of exploitation. These kinds of

exploitation are more likely to affect children who attend alternative education programmes.

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

This can occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age may be

the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including:

* + **gender**
	+ **sexual identity**
	+ **cognitive ability**
	+ **physical strength**
	+ **status**
	+ **access to economic or other resources**

In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator. CSE and CCE can affect both males and females and can include children who have been moved (trafficked) for the purpose of exploitation. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults.

The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. It is highlighted that victims can be exploited even in situations where the behaviour seems consensual; in addition to being physical, exploitation can also occur

online.

CSE can involve 16 and 17-year-olds who are able to give their permission to sexual activity legally, but they might not be aware that they are being taken advantage of because they think they are in a real loving connection. Many children who are sexually exploited disappear from their homes, care facilities, and schools at some time, or they become the target of serious violent crimes and the illegal drug trade (County Lines).

"County Lines" refers to drug trafficking operations or individuals who take advantage of minors and young adults to smuggle narcotics and cash between cities, towns, and

villages.

This type of criminal behaviour is linked to both child sexual exploitation and serious

violent crimes. Children and young people with improved computer abilities may be used

by organised criminal groups or individuals to access digital networks and/or data for illegal and financial gain.

Children may also be coerced into committing cybercrime or money laundering activities. It is possible to convince kids who have bank accounts to let criminals utilise their services for money laundering. CCE can also involve working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing and may involve coercing children to commit vehicle crime or serious

violence towards others. It is important to note that the experience of girls can be very different to that of boys, but girls are also at risk.

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that can affect children in both a

physical environment and online. Staff training includes raising awareness of these issues and any concerns are passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will make a risk assessment and refer to Local Authority First Response Children’s Duty if appropriate.

## Filtering and Monitoring systems

Filtering and monitoring are both important parts of safeguarding pupils and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Clear roles, responsibilities and strategies are vital for delivering and maintaining effective filtering and monitoring

systems. It’s important that the right people are working together and using their professional expertise to make informed decisions.

It is the responsibility of the school’s Governance to ensure that the Government

standards for filtering and monitoring are being met at the school. Governance have delegated this responsibility to the Headteacher. The following adults have a role in ensuring filtering and monitoring standards are being met:

* **Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs York**
* **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms Sinnamon, Miss West, Mrs Salas**
* **CEOP Ambassador: Simply IT**
* **Computing/IT Lead Mrs Vanessa Price and Simply IT**

Filtering is carried out by using software on a Fortigate Firewall. Filtering is category- based, the categories are extensive and detailed in the school Online Safety(E-Safety)

Policy. Our school uses Simply IT to monitor all staff and student internet access. Any "category hits" that are triggered by activity are sent to the Senior leadership team and DSL, in addition, weekly reports are sent. These reports are shared with the DSL and

Computing Lead.

## Online Safety

**Overstone Park School recognises that online safety is a safeguarding and child protection matter.**

**The School Governance (The proprietors) and the DSL have overall strategic responsibility**

**for filtering and monitoring, supported by the school’s IT specialists and IT consultant.**

**The school:**

* + **Identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems.**
	+ **Review filtering and monitoring provision regularly (at least termly).**
	+ **Block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.**
	+ **Have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs.**

**At Overstone Park School we use a system which prevents access to inappropriate websites, provides alerts on detected student safety issues and monitors student wellness levels.**

**It should be noted that technical monitoring systems do not stop unsafe activities on a device or online. Staff and volunteers must remain vigilant and ensure they are physically monitoring pupils where possible. The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:**

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation,

and extremism.

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to

peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the

intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes. Conduct: online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non- consensual sharing of

nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying,

and

Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial

scams.

The policy applies to all School pupils, staff, governance and the wider school community and should be read in conjunction with other relevant school policies including:

* + **ICT & Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy (for staff and pupils).**
	+ **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.**
	+ **Staff Code of Conduct.**
	+ **Data Protection Policy.**
	+ **Social media policy.**
	+ **Code of Conduct for remote learning.**
	+ **Policy to Counter Bullying.**
	+ **Rewards and Sanctions Policy.**

All these policies can be found on the school website.

## Use of mobile devices

We recognise personal communication through mobile technologies is an accepted part of everyday life and we acknowledge that we have a duty to ensure that mobile phones are used responsibly at this school.

We understand parents/carers give their children mobile phones to protect them from everyday risks involving personal security and safety and that it gives parents the reassurance that they can contact their child instantly.

We believe children should not bring their mobile phones into school without permission from the principal as we feel that mobile phones can cause disruption in lessons, the possibility of theft, loss or damage and the possibility of child protection issues. If in the case of an emergency permission has been given, then the phone must be handed into the school office on the arrival of the child at school. Parents will be contacted immediately if a child breaks this rule and will be asked to collect the mobile phone from the school office.

## The role and responsibility of the DSL

Staff members can consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy) at any time to address any safeguarding-related concerns. In Annex C of "Keeping children safe in education" (2024), the duties of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are detailed.

The Safeguarding Lead is clearly delineated in their job description, and they hold a senior staff position on the Senior Management Team.

Among the responsibilities are:

* **Managing referrals—to the Channel programme, to the local authority's children's social care, and (as required) to the Disclosure and Barring Service for personnel**

terminated for safeguarding concerns; and to the police in cases where a crime may have been committed.

* **Working with others – to act as a source of support and advice, to act as a point of contact for the safeguarding partners, to liaise with the Headteacher and Governance about issues especially to do with ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations, to liaise with staff when deciding to make a referral to relevant agencies so that children’s needs are considered**

holistically, to liaise with the senior mental health Lead.

* **To promote supportive engagement with parents and carers, to take the lead in promoting educational outcomes for Children in Need and those with a social worker, to liaise with Governance and the Local Authority on any deficiencies**

brought to the attention of Governance and how these should be rectified without delay.

* **Ensure appropriate information sharing happens when necessary**

Promoting Awareness: ensuring that every staff member and volunteer is well- informed about the child protection policy, which undergoes a minimum annual review and is made publicly accessible.

* **Ensuring that staff and Governance are granted access to relevant training and induction; and fostering educational outcomes through the dissemination of pertinent information regarding vulnerable children.**
* **Training - To have proficiency knowledge, and skills —to participate in Prevent awareness training and Designated Safeguarding Lead training every two years**

(with at least annual updates through bulletins), to comprehend assessment and referral procedures.

* **To make effective contributions to child protection conferences emphasising the significance of information sharing.**
* **To recognise the enduring consequences of trauma and adversity on children and the appropriate ways to react to them, and to maintain vigilance.**
* **To provide support for staff —encouraging them to have confidence in matters pertaining to child protection, welfare, and safeguarding.**
* **Assisting with the referral process when necessary; and assisting them in**

comprehending the connection between safeguarding and educational outcomes.

* **Promoting a culture that values and listens to the perspectives of all children,**

including those who are disproportionately affected by harm and abuse (e.g., LGBT pupils, disabled children, or girls), and considering their desires and emotions when devising protective measures; also, recognising the challenges children may face when attempting to confide in staff regarding their situations.

* **To ensure secure information holding and sharing transferring records between schools and colleges and sharing with safeguarding partners, other agencies, and professionals in adherence to data protection legislation, maintaining precise,**

secure, and comprehensive written or electronic records, and comprehending the rationale behind such practices.

* **To have in place and maintain suitable mechanisms to oversee and resolve matters pertaining to online safety and mobile phone network access, with a particular focus on children who may be more susceptible to harm, exploitation, and abuse; refer concerns as necessary in accordance with the PREVENT obligation.**

**Procedure flow chart**

At all stages., s.c'.hool :should k,eep th,e child's. circums.ta ces under review and re-refer if appropriate to ens re the c'.hilld':scircums.tance.s improv,e- the chilld's bes interests must al'ways come first

Seek medical assistanoe if needed!

l:sthe child in irnmedi;rte dctnger **or** in need of medical as:s.istame?

Procedu1re **filow** 1Cihart

1. Adult follows all procedures,as,det,ermined during training about ' how to d'.eal wJtlh a d&losure'
2. Keep a writtien account of information, discuiSSions, ste[Ps taken and timescales.

5. Do,not di'scus:sd'.etail:s,of the dii:sclosure wfth anyone else other than the DSL/ assistant [)SL

1. Refer tio the [)SL /as:s.istant 00L
2. Go:ntinueto offer su;pport to the child in question



Staff have concerns abou a child and take immediate action. Staff follow the s.af,eguarding policy and speak to the DS .

Directly re[Porlts it totlhe OOl/Assist.ant DSL

Referral made if concerns e.s>calali!e

DSLor staff make refemd to

,children's :sodial care (and

call **police if** a;ppro[Priatel

*l*

School takes r,elevant action,

,eferral not required, school takes relei.r,mt action, possibly indu:ding Early

Help,and/m pastoral support and monitors irnschool.

possibly indluding Early **Help** and/ or pasroraJ support ancl monitors **in** schooJ.

## The role of all staff within safeguarding

It is the duty of all adults who interact with children or act on their behalf to protect and advance their welfare. This involves being vigilant to detect potential abuse and documenting and reporting any concerns to staff members designated as having child

safety responsibilities at the school.

A referral can be made by anybody, although in cases when the designated safeguarding lead does not make the referral, the lead should be notified that a referral has been made.

We acknowledge that no one professional can have the full picture, and we must work

together to fully understand the requirements and circumstances of a child. Everyone that comes into contact with children and families has a responsibility to recognise issues, exchange information, and act quickly if they are to get the right help at the right time.

Staff members should always be alert and report any concerns to the designated

safeguarding lead (or deputies) as safeguarding concerns are never isolated incidents and may overlap with one another.

All staff should:

* **Ensure they have read KCSIE (2024) Part 1**
* **Report any incidents or concerns (regardless of how small they seem) by following the procedure flow chart above.**
* **Record any concerns on ‘My Concern’ as soon as possible after the incident**
* **Ensure the DSL or DDSL is aware of any concerns you have reported or recorded**
* **Always feel confident to challenge where you think action has not been taken**
* **Record any incidents that may form part of the bigger picture for the child (including, telephone calls/meetings with parents or external agencies)**

## Record Keeping

At Overstone Park, we ensure that records are maintained and stored in a confidential, secure, and current manner. This includes:

* **maintaining separate records for each child.**
* **including a comprehensive and detailed summary that outlines the follow-up and resolution of concerns.**
* **including a notation of actions, decisions, and the result.**
* **sharing information as necessary to ensure the safety of children.**
* **transferring records and other pertinent information to the new school no later than within five days.**

To ensure records are maintained effectively and easily accessible for the appropriate people, a secure online system called ‘My Concern’ is used. All staff have a login so that when concerns arise, they can be recorded quickly and effectively and the DSL/DDSLs will be notified accordingly. The Designated Safeguarding Lead has oversight over all concerns that are recorded and can take appropriate action/give appropriate advice to staff.

As part of wider record keeping, concerns regarding staff can be recorded on ‘My

Concern’s partner programme, ‘Confide’ where appropriate. Staff can also report concerns in person if they feel this is more appropriate.

## Supporting vulnerable groups

Our vulnerable groups are known to be the least safe, we consider the following groups of children to fall in the category of ‘vulnerable’:-

looked after children traveller children

young carers

bullied/cyber bullied children

children who go missing from home/school

children suffering from neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse or emotional abuse children suffering from bereavement

children of parents who are refugees/asylum seekers children experiencing drugs or alcohol abuse

children with special educational needs or a disability children excluded from school

## Looked After Children

Overstone Park School recognises that looked after children (LAC) or previously looked after children (PLAC) may need additional support. The school has a designated member of staff to support looked after children. They will work closely with the DSL and Virtual Head to ensure information about the child’s care arrangements is known and shared appropriately. The school recognises the importance of all agencies working together and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.

The designated teachers have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales. The designated teacher has appropriate training and the relevant qualifications and

experience to fulfil this role, to support them specific note is taken of Promoting the education of looked after and previously looked after children (Feb 2018)

**Safeguarding pupils who are vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation Overstone Park School recognises the duties placed on us by the Counter Terrorism Bill (July 2015) to prevent our pupils being drawn into terrorism.**

These include:

* **Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism.**
* **Working in partnership with relevant agencies under the Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures.**
* **Appropriate staff training.**
* **Appropriate online filtering.**
* **The school is committed to actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**
* **Pupils are encouraged to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.**
* **There is a current threat from terrorism in the UK and this can include the**

exploitation of vulnerable young people, aiming to involve them in terrorism or to be active in supporting terrorism.

* **Our school seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islamist Ideology, Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology etc.**
* **Concerns should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Principal who has local contact details for Prevent and Channel referrals. They will also consider whether circumstances require Police to be contacted.**

## Linked policies

This policy document is to be read in conjunction with the following policies that form part of the

wider agenda for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The word

‘safeguarding’ is used as an ‘umbrella’ term which encompasses all the following policies:

* **Accident**
* **Anti-bullying (includes cyberbullying)**
* **Asthma**
* **Attendance**
* **Behaviour**
* **Child Protection**
* **Child Sexual Exploitation (includes CCE**

& FGM)

* **Confidentiality**
* **Critical Incident**
* **Dealing with Radicalisation and**

Extremism

* **Equal Opportunities and Diversity**
* **Online Safety Acceptable Use and Data Policy**
* **Fire and Emergency Evacuation**
* **First Aid**
* **Health and Safety**
* **Medicines**
* **Missing Child**
* **Risk Assessment**
* **Safe Recruitment and Selection**
* **Security**
* **SEN and Disability**
* **Sickness and Communicable Diseases**
* **Staffing Checks**
* **Visitors**
* **Vulnerable Child**
* **Whistle blowing**

## Monitoring and Review

The Designated Safeguarding Lead in the School will monitor the implementation of this policy locally and report to the principal as required.

The proprietor, the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and a Safeguarding consultant will undertake an annual audit visit and other periodic checks to monitor the effectiveness of the school’s implementation of these policies and procedures. They will also regularly review the safeguarding incidents that have arisen and how they were managed. The Health and Safety management team will also participate in reviewing the policy.

**Policy Cordinators**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Dawn York Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Miss Ashleigh West, Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Ms Julieanne Sinnamon Safeguarding Director: Mr Sebastian**

**Safeguarding Consultant: Mr Alex Neophitou**

**Policy revised in August 2024**

**Review of the policy August 2025 or when required. Principal: Mrs Marion Brown**

**Further contact information:-**

Early Help Support Service on 0300 126 7000 (option 1 then option 2) or email CFSS@NCTrust.co.uk

Early Education and Childcare advisers eecadvisers@westnorthants.gov.uk eecadvisers@northnorthants.gov.uk

Virtual School

Calli.Arrow@northnorthants.gov.uk Phone: 01536 535680

Email: virtualschool@northnorthants.gov.uk

Northampton safeguarding children board <http://nscp@northnorthants.gov.uk/>

The ONLY route for all LADO referrals AND consultations will be via the link on the NSCP website / LADO webpage - Designated Officer (formerly LADO) - Northamptonshire

Safeguarding Children

Board (northamptonshirescb.org.uk).

Any old versions of LADO contact forms which you may have downloaded and saved as templates should not be used, as they will not be accepted.

LADO’s will still be contactable via e-mail LADOConsultations@NCTrust.co.uk Or by phone:

Andy Smith - West Northamptonshire 07850 854 30

Sheila Kempster - Designated Officer for North Northamptonshire 07831 123 193 Sian Edwards (interim) - 07738 636 449

Please note that, should you contact any of the LADOs and receive advice that a

consultation or referral needs to be made; you will need to do this via the link on the LADO website – Designated Officer (formerly LADO) - Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (northamptonshirescb.org.uk)

## Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Professionals should use the online referral form to submit safeguarding concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

* **0300 126 7000 (for advice and to report concerns)**
* **01604 626 938 (Emergency Out of Hours MASH) n.b. call 999 if a child is in immediate danger**

Online Referrals:

https://northamptonshireself.achieveservice.com/en/service/Make\_a\_children\_s\_referral

\_to\_Northamptonshire\_s\_ MASH Trust (NCT) urgently during the evening, at night, or at the weekend, please phone their out-of-hours team on 01604 626938.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Referrals (via the Youth and Adolescent Referral Management Centre) https:[//www.nhft.nhs.uk/cyprmc](http://www.nhft.nhs.uk/cyprmc)

CAMHS Advice Line for Professionals

0800 170 7055 (Monday – Friday 9am-7pm) Prevent Duty Referrals and Advice

E-Mail: prevent@northants.pnn.police.uk or Telephone: 101 ext. 341166 Guidance Sheet for Prevent Referrals and Advice

* **NSPCC:** **help@nspcc.org.uk** **Tel: 0808 800 5000**
* **NSPCC whistleblowing:** **help@nspcc.org.uk** **Tel: 0800 028 028522**
* **NSPCC sexual abuse in school’s helpline:** **help@nspcc.org.uk** **Tel: 0800 136 663**
* **CEOP:** [**www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/**](http://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/)
* **DfE dedicated telephone helpline and mailbox for non-emergency advice for staff: 020 7340 7264 and** **counterextremism@education.gsi.gov.uk**

Childline can also give confidential help and advice. Calls to 0800 1111 are free or children can get support online.