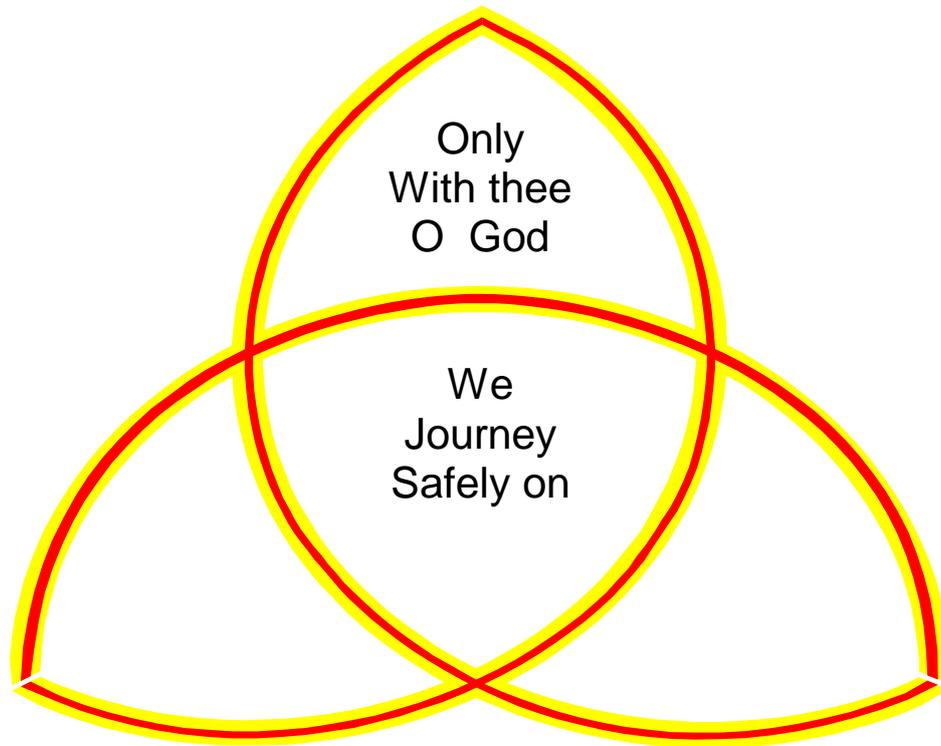


# Holy Trinity CE Junior School



**Policy & Procedure for:**

**Child Protection Policy &  
Procedures**

**Written by:**

**Suzanne Robins**

**Date Adopted:**

**Autumn 2017**

**Review Date:**

**Autumn 2018**

## Policy

### SCHOOL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURE

#### "THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD IS PARAMOUNT"

**Safeguarding** is an 'umbrella' term which covers many aspects of a child's welfare and well-being which are referenced in this policy. **Child protection** is about significant harm.

In addition to our Child Protection policy and procedures the School's commitment to safeguarding is contained in a number of policies and practice documents. These include; Health & Safety Policies; Code of Conduct; Promoting Good Behaviour and Anti Bullying Polices; all Policies referring to equalities; Internet Safety (including acceptable use); Medical, First Aid and Intimate Care Policies and Educational Visits Policies. These policies come under the 'umbrella' of SAFEGUARDING.

Parents and children attend school every day with the expectation that the school provides a secure environment in which pupils can flourish and develop. We ensure that the children know there are adults in school who they can approach if they are worried about anything.

Holy Trinity will ensure the school environment is safe and secure and is one in which children are encouraged to talk freely about anything that concerns them, including allegations against other pupils. A culture of vigilance is proactively promoted to ensure the wellbeing of each member within our school community and to ensure each child is protected from abuse and is alert to the possibility that abuse may occur.

We ensure that issues of safeguarding are raised with pupils/students through the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. Our PSHE syllabus develops students understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe. We have systems in place for any student to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued.

All adults working in the school must protect children/young people from harm and abuse by following policies and procedures, including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Children missing in education, Radicalisation/Extremism (Prevent Duty) and so-called 'Honour-based Violence' (see 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (DfE, September 2016, Part 1). and be aware that any pupil/student may be at risk. (see appendix 1)

We have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils/students under the Education Act 2002 and Children Act 1989 through identifying any child/young person welfare concerns and taking action to address them in partnership with families and other agencies if and where appropriate.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school and pupils/students and parents are informed about this and our other policies in the school prospectus and on our website.

There are a number of elements to our policy:

- Ensuring safe recruitment practice in checking the suitability of all our staff and volunteers to work with children;
- Raising awareness of child protection/safeguarding issues amongst all staff and volunteers and of what to do if they have concerns;

- Developing and implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse;
- Developing effective links with relevant agencies and co-operating as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences and core group meetings;
- Supporting pupils/students who have been abused or may be at risk of harm in accordance with any agreed child protection plan;
- Ensuring we respond appropriately to any concern or allegation about a member of staff or volunteer; and
- Ensuring staff follow accepted “safe practice” principles when working with pupils/students.

If there are Child Protection concerns the **London Child Protection Child Protection Procedures** (London Safeguarding Children Board, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2014) must be followed (available on the staff shared area, and also available from the designated safeguarding person. It can also be found at [www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures).) The Sutton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has adopted these procedures. This policy and procedure also accords with:

- “Working Together to Safeguard Children” (HM Government, 2015).
- ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ DfE September 2016 (KCSIE)
- ‘What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused’ (HM Government, March 2015)

If lower level concerns or needs (i.e. not child protection) are identified about a particular pupil/student the Sutton Early Help Assessment Tool (guidance available at [www.sutton.gov.uk](http://www.sutton.gov.uk)) should be followed.

## RECOGNITION

The first indication of concern about a pupil’s/student’s welfare is not necessarily the presence of a serious injury. Concerns may be because of:

- bruises or marks on a pupil’s/student’s body;
- remarks made by the pupil/student, another pupil/student, a parent or another adult;
- observations of the pupil’s/student’s behaviour;
- unexplained changes in the pupil’s/student’s behaviour or personality;
- evidence of disturbance or explicit detail about abuse or possible abuse in a pupil’s/student’s play, drawing or writing;
- evidence of neglect, failure to thrive or exposure to unnecessary risks;
- unauthorised absence from school; and / or
- information about the parent(s) / carer(s) of the child/young person or their home background.
- girls who are withdrawn from PSHE, visiting female elder from the country of origin, being taken on a long holiday to the country of origin, talk about a ‘special’ procedure to become a woman (Female Genital Mutilation)

## DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead for children is Suzanne Robins and other staff available to provide significant cover when she is absent are Shirley Gruffydd, Julie Sweetman, Anna Cooper. They are responsible for child protection issues. Any member of staff concerned about a pupil/student should tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead or, in her absence, the other designated staff, immediately. If they are unavailable, a senior member of staff should be advised. We also have a nominated governor for child protection who is Heidi Phillips.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a responsibility to:

- Liaise with the nominated governor, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) local authority Education and Children and Family Services, Police and other agencies on individual child protection cases;
- Act as the contact person within the school, providing advice and support and ensuring that all staff (including temporary, supply staff and volunteers and members of the governing body) are aware of their role;
- Be responsible for co-ordinating action within the school on child protection issues;
- Discuss individual cases with staff on a “need to know basis” to protect children's right to confidentiality;
- Oversee the planning of any curricular or other provision in relation to child protection/safeguarding matters;
- Ensure staff are familiar with this Policy and Procedure, the London Child Protection Procedures, and any other relevant guidance;
- With any other relevant staff (e.g. tutor, year head), represent the school at child protection meetings and be a member of a core group if required;
- Raise awareness about child protection on an ongoing basis;
- Together with the head teacher and local authority safeguarding children training officer, arrange regular training for **all according to their roles and responsibilities** and that all training undertaken is recorded on the schools’ Single Central Record (SCR);
- Ensure that they the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff who provide significant cover receive training at least every year and updates at least annually and recorded on the SCR.
- Ensure all staff have at least annual updates
- Ensure the designated teacher for Looked After Children works with the Virtual school Head teacher to establish best outcomes for the children

## THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL STAFF

Everyone in the school must be alert to the possibility that any pupil/student, regardless of race, religion, culture, class or family background, could be the victim of abuse or neglect, exploitation, FGM and Radicalisation/Extremism and must be familiar with all of these procedures as set out in KCSIE September 2016. All staff must read and understand section 1 of KCSIE and a record is logged on the school’s Single Central Record. Concern about a pupil/student must be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead

immediately so that if necessary, a referral can be made without delay.

Members of staff should not investigate child protection/safeguarding concerns, but gather information including any witnesses of an incident. An investigation is done by Children's Social Services and or the Police. However, if a pupil/student says something, it is vital to listen carefully, so you can record and report it accurately and pass onto the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS**

Our pupils/students and their parents/carers have the right to expect all staff to deal sensitively and sympathetically with their situation. It is important that information is only available to those who need to know it. Parents/carers and, where appropriate, pupils/students should be told their right to confidentiality may be breached if information comes to light suggesting possible harm to a child or young person. Child protection issues relating to individual cases **must not** be subject to open discussion in the staff room or elsewhere in the school.

Members of staff should also remember not to promise to pupils/students to keep "secrets" (see procedure below).

## **WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

We recognise that children and young people who are abused, neglected, or who witness abuse or neglect may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helpless, humiliated and a sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the student through:

- the content of the curriculum;
- the school ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives students a sense of being valued;
- the school behaviour policy which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils and pupils with SEND in the school; we will ensure that pupils/students know that some behaviour are unacceptable and that they are valued and not blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
- liaison with other agencies that support pupils/students such as social services, the child and adolescent mental health service, the borough school attendance service and the educational psychology service; and
- ensuring that, where a pupil/student with a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is transferred to any new school immediately and that their social worker is informed.

## **RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION OF ALL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

In our recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers we will at all times adhere to the Government guidance contained within "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (HM Government 2015), 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE September 2016).

In particular we will ensure that:

- For good practice, our interview panel includes at least one member who has completed safer recruitment training,
- that we always follow up gaps in previous employment,
- that we always require specific references from employers for the last five years and
- that for all posts, paid and voluntary, the appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) information has been received

We keep a single central record (SCR) of all staff with the date and outcome of their DBS check so at all times staff, pupils/students and parents can be assured this has been done.

The school is aware of and takes notice of 'Disqualification by Association' Guidance 2015 where relevant to the school community and responds in a timely manner.

## **CONTRACTORS AND OUTSIDE SERVICES**

We expect all contractors providing services within the school whose staff have access to school premises to comply with this policy and the attached procedure. The contractor or individual must agree to this in writing.

In particular we require any contractor or organisation delivering a service on behalf of the school or using our premises to provide evidence they adhere to the above requirements in terms of recruitment, selection, training and supervision of their staff and any volunteers, in particular DBS information. Checks are usually only required if a contractor's member of staff will be left unsupervised.

This policy and procedure will also apply to any organisation using school facilities. They must agree to this in writing.

## **CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE**

### **DO NOT DELAY**

- Tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as you can - it may be necessary to interrupt a lesson to do this - do not leave notes in the Designated Safeguarding Lead's pigeonhole/ desk as they may not get back to check their post until the end of the day once the pupil/student has gone home;
- Early referral gives more time to offer help to the pupil/student and family before the situation becomes severe or serious;
- When the matter is already severe or serious, early referral gives more time for others to protect the pupil/student;
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead may consult the Children's Social Services, and MASH.

### **MAKE WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC NOTES**

- At the earliest opportunity make a written record of your concerns - record facts accurately and be clear when you are expressing an opinion and the basis for this - these notes will help to ensure accuracy in recalling events later – handwritten notes should be legible, signed, time noted and dated; where possible, staff should use MyConcern to record their notes.
- These notes must be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible. If using MyConcern to record, staff must first tell a DSL if the concern is high risk.
- Do not take photographs of any physical injuries but record on a body map. Do not use audio to record disclosures.

### **CONCERN FROM SOMETHING THE CHILD SAYS**

**Listen** - do not ask questions or interrogate. Consider interpreting services if English is a second language.

**Remain calm** - if you are shocked, upset or angry the pupil/student will sense this and this could stop them from saying more.

**Reassure** - the pupil/student that s/he has done nothing wrong - tell them it is alright to talk.

**Do not promise to keep it secret** - tell the pupil/student you cannot keep the matter secret and will need to take advice from someone who can help.

### **REFERRAL PROCESS**

If a member of staff wishes to make a referral to Social Services or to the Police they should consult the Designated Safeguarding Lead about how to do this. However, referral must not be delayed - if the Designated Safeguarding Lead is not available a senior member of staff should be advised and the referral made to the Sutton Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Guidance on how to make a referral can be found at <https://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9433>

(Additional information is also available in the London Child Protection Procedures for details). The MASH social care team or the Education Safeguarding Children's Adviser will be happy to discuss concerns even if you are not sure at that stage that a referral needs to be made. They can be contacted on 020 87706001

## REMEMBER

- If in doubt, consult;
- do not ignore concerns, even if these are vague;
- your first responsibility is to the pupil/student; and
- if you need help or support to manage your own feelings, this can usually be provided.

## CONTACT WITH THE FAMILY

Contact with the family should be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who may consult the MASH social care team or the Education Safeguarding Children's Adviser.

In cases where a minor physical injury causes concern, it is usual school practice to discuss this with the parent or carer. If the explanation suggests a non-accidental cause for the injury (or a failure to protect the pupil/ student from harm), the pupil/student (as appropriate), parent or carer should be informed that the matter must be referred to the Children and Family Social Work Service via the MASH.

In cases of possible neglect or emotional abuse, the concern may have built up over a period of time. There may have been discussion previously between school staff and the family about sources of help (e.g. the Children and Family Social Work Service), but if concerns persist, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will need to refer to the MASH .

**In cases where there are suspicions of sexual abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will seek immediate advice from the MASH before discussing this with the family.**

## RECORDING

- All records relating to child welfare concerns will be kept on the pupil's/student's electronic file and the file will be kept secure - a chronology of concern should be kept;
- Where there are concerns about a pupil/student, the pupil's/student's file indicates this with a red sticker, making the files easily distinguishable from others where there are no concerns.
- We will keep written records of any concerns about pupils/students, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately;
- Information from records will only be accessed by staff on a "need to know" basis;
- Key staff will need to know when a pupil/student is subject to a Child Protection Plan so they can monitor the pupil's/student's welfare;
- Records relating to the pupil's/student's welfare will remain on the pupil's/student's file as long as the pupil/student is at the school;
- When the pupil/student leaves the school, the new school will be advised in writing that our records contain information about child protection concerns even where these are no longer current. Records should be sent in a way that is lawful in terms of the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

## CONCERN ABOUT A STAFF MEMBER, CARER OR VOLUNTEER

- Allegations or concerns about a member of staff, worker or volunteer must immediately be notified to the head teacher (or the chair of governors if the concern is about the head teacher);
- The head teacher (or chair of governors) will always consult the Local Authority Designated Officer

(LADO).

- Following consultation, the head teacher (or chair of governors) in agreement with the LADO will decide on appropriate action:
  - ❖ consider a Senior Strategy meeting
  - ❖ consideration of disciplinary proceedings
- It is important to bear in mind that although the concern may relate to an individual pupil/student, other pupils/students may also be at risk;
- The procedures are in Sutton LSCB Procedure, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 Chapter 2, Para 4, “Dealing with allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff and ‘Keeping Children safe in Education (DfE September 2016).
- When appropriate with guidance from the LADO, consideration will be given to referral of a member of staff to the DBS for consideration of the case.
- If a member of staff believes a reported allegation or concern is not being dealt with appropriately, they should report the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to give support and direction on how to proceed.
- Further guidance can also be sought from the MASH.

#### **HARM, FROM OR TO, OTHER CHILDREN**

- Abuse or concerns about a risk of abuse or harm by other children/young people is subject to the same safeguarding procedures as in respect of children or young people being abused by an adult;
- Professionals responding should be alert to the risk a child/young person may pose to children/young people other than any “current” victim; and
- Children or young people who harm others are likely to have considerable needs themselves (e.g. they may have been subjected to abuse, witnessed domestic violence or committed criminal offences).

In such cases there will usually be a need to refer the alleged perpetrator of harm to the Children and Families Service.

#### **FOREIGN EXCHANGE VISITS**

We will seek the consent of our host families to carry out checks with the appropriate local authority to ensure suitability. In the event that a host family has been subject of some kind of concern, unless there is a satisfactory resolution, the family will be regarded as unsuitable to receive or continue to host a student from overseas.

We will take reasonable steps to ensure that a comparable approach is taken our companion schools abroad. New guidance available, makes it the parent’s responsibility.

#### **REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE BY OTHER AGENCIES**

- All school staff have a legal duty to assist local authority Children and Family Social Care Services or the Police when they are making enquiries about the welfare of pupils/students;
- Information about a pupil/student must therefore be shared on a "need to know" basis with other agencies;

- When telephone requests for information are received, **always** maintain security by checking the telephone number listing for the caller and calling back to a switchboard number **before** giving information or confirming the student is on the school roll;
- Always advise the designated person about such requests for information;
- Requests for attendance at meetings about individual pupils/students (e.g. child protection conferences) should be notified to the designated person, who will arrange preparation of a report and attendance at the meeting;
- Reports should contain information about the child's/young person's:
  - ❖ academic progress, attendance, behaviour, relationships with children/young people and adults, family and any other relevant matters;
- Reports should be objective, distinguishing between fact, observation, allegation and opinion;
- Unless you specify otherwise, reports will normally be made available to the student's family.

### **PUPILS/STUDENTS SUBJECT TO A CHILD PROTECTION PLAN**

- The school will be told by the relevant local authority Children and Family Social Work Service when a pupil/student is subject to a Child Protection Plan (previously the Child Protection Register) whether the London Borough of Sutton or another local authority;
- The name of the key social worker must be clearly recorded on the pupil's/student's record;
- The school will participate fully in the work of Core Groups for these pupils/students to assist with the objectives of the Child Protection Plan for the pupil/student;
- When a pupil/student is subject to a Child Protection Plan, the school will report all unexplained absences even if only of a day;
- When a pupil/student is subject to a Child Protection Plan, the school will report all behavioural changes or other concerns to the key social worker; and
- when a pupil/student who is subject to a Child Protection Plan leaves the school, all the child protection information will be transferred to any new school.

### **GENERAL ISSUES**

All staff must observe the above policy and procedure at all times. They will be reviewed annually and as required in line with changes in local (LSCB) or national guidance.

### **SUTTON CONTACT DETAILS**

- LB Sutton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 020 87706001/ 0208770 5590 (Gill Bush)
- LBS Education, Safeguarding Children Adviser - 020 8649 0414 (if unavailable contact the MASH)
- LBS Education, Safeguarding and Wellbeing Lead – 020 8288 5630
- LB Sutton Children & Families, Referral & Assessment Service (RAS) - 020 8770 4343/4263
- LB Sutton (out of office hours) Children & Families Emergency Duty Social Work Team (EDT) - 020 8770 5000
- LBS Child Protection Advisor (Quality & Performance Unit) - 020 8770 4532 (if unavailable ask for the

deputy or contact the Referral and Assessment Service)

- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) - 0208 770 4022. If there is a need to make a referral outside of these times call the Out of Hours service on: 0208 770 4322.
- OTHER: NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 0800 028 0285

### **KEY SAFEGUARDING DOCUMENTS**

- Working Together to Safeguard Children - March 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education – DfE September 2016
- What to do if you think a child is being abused – DfE March 2015
- Advice for Schools on the Prevent Duty – DfE 2015
- Section 26 of the Counter – Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 – section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 places a mandatory duty for schools to report from October 2015 to the police.

Updated November 2017

## **APPENDIX A: key information on CME, CSE, FGM, Prevent and so-called Honour based Violence from KCSIE September 2016**

### **Further information on a child missing from education**

(The government recently consulted on plans to amend regulations from September 2016, to improve information sharing between schools and LAs to help identify children missing education and help protect children from potential harm. This section will be updated to reflect any changes that are made before September 5 2016.)

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area.

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School and college staff should follow the school's or college's procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

Schools and colleges should put in place appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. It is essential that all staff are alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns

### **Further information on Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point. Some of the following signs may be indicators of sexual exploitation:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant;
- 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.

### **Further information on so- called 'honour based' violence**

So-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of so called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If in any doubts staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead. 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 HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

## **Indicators**

There are a range of potential indicators that a child may be at risk of HBV. Guidance on the warning signs that FGM or forced marriage may be about to take place, or may have already taken place, can be found on pages 38-41 of the Multi agency statutory guidance on FGM (pages 59-61 focus on the role of schools and colleges) and pages 13-14 of the Multi-agency guidelines: Handling case of forced marriage.

## **Actions**

If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of HBV they should activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care. Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on **teachers<sup>73</sup>** that requires a different approach

### **FGM mandatory reporting duty**

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

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 will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by "to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out" is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies.

Information on when and how to make a report can be found at-

### **Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information**

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also still consider and discuss any such case with the school or college's designated safeguarding lead and involve children's social care as appropriate. The duty 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.

## **Forced marriage**

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

## **Further information on Preventing Radicalisation**

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' and colleges' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from

other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel programme.

### **Prevent**

From 1 July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools (and since 18 September 2015 all colleges) as defined in the summary of this guidance, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the CTSA 2015"), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales are specifically concerned with schools (but also cover childcare). There is separate guidance: Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales that applies to colleges. 76 to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies. Bodies to which the duty applies must have regard to statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015. Paragraphs 57-76 of the

The statutory "Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales" (for schools) summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes:

- Schools are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them. Schools should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies. It is not necessary for schools to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty.
- The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. For example, governing bodies and proprietors of all schools should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Effective engagement with parents / the family should also be considered as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. It is important to assist and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms. Schools should also discuss any concerns in relation to possible radicalisation with a child's parents in line with the individual school's safeguarding policies and procedures unless they have specific reason to believe that to do so would put the child at risk.
- The Prevent guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Individual schools are best placed to assess the training needs of staff in the light of their assessment of the risk to pupils at the school of being drawn into terrorism. As a minimum, however, schools should ensure that the

designated safeguarding lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

- Schools must ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools.
- The Department for Education has also published advice for schools on the Prevent duty. The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts other sources of advice and support. The Government has launched educate against hate, a website designed to equip school and college leaders, teachers and parents with the information, tools and resources they need to recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people. The website provides information on training resources for teachers, staff and school and college leaders, such as Prevent e-learning, via the Prevent Training catalogue.

### **Channel**

School and college staff should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel guidance. E-learning channel awareness programme for staff is available at: Channel General Awareness. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. In addition to information sharing, if a staff member makes a referral to Channel, they may be asked to attend a Channel panel to discuss the individual referred to determine whether support is required.

### **Further information on peer on peer abuse**

#### **Allegations against other pupils which are safeguarding issues**

Occasionally, allegations may be made against students by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that, to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a pupil, some of the following features will be found.

If the allegation:-

- Is made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger pupil or a more vulnerable pupil
- Is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- Raises risk factors for other pupils in the school
- Indicates that other pupils may have been affected by this student
- Indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this student

Examples of safeguarding issues against a student could include:

#### Physical Abuse

- Violence, particularly pre-planned
- Forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

#### Emotional Abuse

- Blackmail or extortion
- Threats and intimidation

#### Sexual Abuse

- Indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- Forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting