



Policy on Child Protection (Safeguarding) Part 1

Reviewed September 2018

CHILD PROTECTION (Safeguarding) POLICY

1. The School's Responsibility for Child Protection

Riverside School is committed to safeguarding children and young people. It is expected that everyone who works in the school will share this commitment. All adults in the school take all welfare concerns seriously and encourage children and young people to talk to a staff member about anything that worries them. Riverside Staff will always act in the best interest of the child.

This involves ensuring that students are protected from significant physical or emotional harm and that there is a positive commitment to ensure the satisfactory development and growth of the individual.

Everyone working at Riverside School should be aware of and, when necessary, follow the school's Child Protection Guidelines, which are in line with the UK Department of Education's (DoE) practice and procedures and guided by policies and guidance in: *Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2018* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018*. Riverside School's Child Protection Policy can be accessed on the School Website.

2. Purpose

Riverside School wants the students in its care to:

- **Be healthy**
- **Enjoy their lives**
- **Achieve economic well-being**
- **Make a positive contribution to society**
- **Stay safe**

This policy aims to:

- **provide clear direction to staff and others about procedures and the expected codes of behaviour in identifying and reporting Child Protection and Safeguarding issues.**
- **ensure that Child Protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways that support the needs of the child.**
- **ensure that parents are aware of our policies and procedures.**
- **make clear the school's commitment to the development of good practice and sound procedures.**

3. Child Protection in School

1. All school staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for students, and prevent concerns from escalating.
2. All staff should be prepared to identify students who may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.
3. Any staff member who has a concern about a child's welfare should follow the referral processes set out in Riverside's Child Protection Policy.

4. *Riverside School must provide a safe environment. The School Board is responsible for this aspect of child protection. The Recruitment Officer is responsible for the implementation of Safer Recruitment procedures for people wishing to work at the school.*
5. *Staff members are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the best interests of the child.*
6. *The School must promote satisfactory development and growth. This is ensured by providing intellectual and physical challenge through the development of a sound curriculum policy that will promote the welfare and safeguarding of children. The School aims to create an environment within which children feel comfortable and know how to discuss such matters within a culture of strong pastoral support.*
7. *The school will include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE and e-safety which equip students with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse. School Enrichment Days and assemblies are also key means of delivery.*
8. *The School is also bound to take reasonable measures to safeguard the emotional welfare of its students from bullying or abuse within the school. Specifically, the school's anti-bullying policy should be consulted.*
9. *The School will ensure that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from outside agencies.*

4. Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children have the best outcomes.

Child protection, as part of safeguarding and promoting welfare, refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. Where a child is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, action should be taken to protect that child. Action should also be taken to promote the welfare of a child in need of additional support, even if they are not suffering harm or are at immediate risk.

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full-time or part-time, in a paid or voluntary position.

Child or student refers to all young people under the age of 18 and those over the age of 18 who are students.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults who are acting in a parental role (ie step-parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, or carer).

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Each of Riverside's four sites has **Designated Safeguarding Leads** for child protection matters.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead in:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Riverside Early Years School: | Alison Hellam |
| Riverside Primary School: | Graeme Chisholm |
| Riverside Junior High School: | Connie Falk |
| Riverside Senior High School: | Mike Bevan |
| Child Protection Chair: | Graeme Chisholm |
| Child Protection Deputy Chair: | Connie Falk |

The **Chair, Deputy Chair and Riverside Board** have the overall responsibility for the implementation of the Policy and Procedures for the protection of children and ensuring its objectives are met.

Each **Designated Safeguarding Lead** has the responsibility for the implementation of the Policy and Procedures for the protection of Children in their designated school. All Staff are expected to follow this policy and take the appropriate action to meet the aims and objectives.

However, the designated **Child Protection Chair and Deputy** have specific duties to deal with the effective functioning of this policy. Their roles and responsibilities are detailed below.

Child Protection Chair

The Child Protection Chair is responsible for acting as a source of advice on child protection matters, for coordinating action within the school and for liaising with families, the police and other agencies about suspected or actual cases of abuse.

The role of the Child Protection Chair with the support of the Deputy Chair is to:

- Provide information and advice on child protection matters within Riverside School.
- Ensure that Riverside's Policy and Procedures for the protection of children are followed and particularly to inform the Principal and Director of concerns about individual students.
- Ensure that the appropriate information is available at the time of referral and that the referral is confirmed in writing and securely and confidentially filed.
- Liaise with outside agencies involved, for example the police.
- Keep relevant people within the school informed about any action taken and any further action required. This is on a need to know basis
- Advise Riverside of child protection training needs in liaison with the Deputy Child Protection Chair and the Director and School Principals.
- Ensure copies of all reports of incidents are given to the Director to be stored in safekeeping.
- The Deputy Child Protection Chair takes on this role in the absence of the Chair.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Riverside School has assigned a **Designated Safeguarding Lead** to each school site. In the case of a disclosure, the appropriate Lead will meet with the Chair within 24 hours. It is not necessary to arrange a meeting with the full Child Protection Team within this time frame, although other members may be asked to join.

The role of the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** is to:

- Act as a first point of contact and support for staff in relation to child protection issues.
- Record the reporting of a disclosure of alleged abuse made by a child to a member of staff. (Please refer to 'Riverside School's Confidential Record of Concern')
- Discuss future action with the member of staff who made the report, after speaking with the CP Chair. (Where appropriate, another member of staff may be included where he/she has observed possible signs of abuse or heard a child disclosing details of potential abuse.)
- Record all actions taken and advise the CP Chair within 24 hours.
- Ensure copies of all reports of incidents will be passed to the CP Chair.
- Ensure the Chair is contacted immediately, if the matter is urgent and there are concerns for the safety of a child, so that the Chair can take appropriate action.

Role of the Board and Annual Review of Policy

The nominated Board Member responsible for liaising with the CP Chair over matters regarding child protection issues is Lee Ann Thompson. It is her role to:

- Ensure the School has a child protection policy and that procedures are in place, which are consistent with The UK Department for Education Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, 2018, Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2018 and Thirtyone:eight (previously CCPAS) procedures.
- Ensure that an annual item is placed on the Board Members' agenda to review the School's Child Protection policy and procedures, and the efficiency with which the related duties are undertaken.
- Report on changes to the Child Protection policy/procedures, training undertaken by the CP Chair, other staff and Board Members, the number of incidents/cases (without details or names) and the place of child protection issues in the school curriculum.
- Liaise, with due regard to issues of confidentiality with the CP Chair regarding allegations of child abuse.
- Be responsible for the oversight of procedures relating to liaison with Thirtyone:eight the relevant agencies and the Police in relation to any allegations of child abuse made against the Director, including possible involvement in multi-agency strategy discussions to ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training should be regularly updated.

Any deficiencies or weaknesses in child protection arrangements at Riverside School will be remedied without delay.

Role of External Agencies

The Canadian Medical Care (www.cmcpraha.cz), The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service or Thirtyone:eight (www.Thirtyone:eight.co.uk/), Kidscape (www.kidscape.org.uk), Fond Ohrozenych Deti (www.fod.cz) and Odbor Socialnich Veci (The Department of Social Affairs, Czech Republic, Mgr. Dagmar Soniskovou) represent the CP interests of Riverside School.

The Designated Safeguard Lead is required to undergo refresher training in inter-agency working every two years. Training has been administered by Thirtyone:eight and most recently by Educare since 2017.

Further information on local contacts can be found in Appendix 2.

Guidance Policy on Record Keeping, Information Sharing, Retention and Storage

"The most important consideration is whether sharing information is likely to support the safeguarding and protection of a child" (Information Sharing, 2018, p. 9).

A student with child protection issues will have a separate file as well as his/her main school file. The special, secure file for sensitive information will be kept by the Director. The GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe.

Please refer to the school's Data Protection Policy and Part 2 of the safeguarding guidance for further information.

Definition of Abuse

Abuse is 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 (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children. The following definitions of abuse are aligned with the guidelines in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, 2018.

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

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

These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), 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, though it may occur alone.

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

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

Examples of Abusive Actions

The key criteria in assessing whether or not to refer a situation to the CP Chair is whether the harm caused, or risk of harm, is significant and/or persistent.

Any of the following between adult and student should be automatically referred:

Physical Abuse: Any form of physical assault (including attempts), such as:

- *kicking*
- *punching*
- *pushing*
- *smacking*
- *slapping*
- *shaking*
- *throwing a missile at a student, such as a board rubber or white-board pen.*

Sexual Abuse:

- *Any form of sexual assault (including attempts)*
- *Possession of indecent and pseudo indecent photographs of children, including digital images*
- *Showing indecent or pornographic material to children*
- *Inappropriate touching, language or behaviour towards any child or student for sexual purposes*
- *Inappropriate use of text messaging, email or other ICT towards any child or student for sexual purposes*

Emotional Abuse and Neglect:

- *Racial comments or behaviour, or failing to address these in others*
- *Homophobic comments or behaviour, or failing to address these in others*
- *Bullying students, or failing to address these in others*
- *Persistent sarcasm*
- *Humiliating students, for example by persistently placing a child in a corner or corridor*
- *Creating a climate of fear in the classroom*
- *Inappropriate punishment, for example putting a child in a cupboard*
- *Failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger*
- *Failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment*

Children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.

These can include:

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

Possible Signs of Abuse

Staff should be aware of the following signs that may indicate abuse:

- Possible physical signs may include unexplained or repeated injuries, bruises in odd places, marks of slapping, biting, gripping etc, cuts in odd places, poor hygiene, marked weight fluctuations.
- Possible behavioural signs may include a marked change in behaviour, eating disorders, excessively affectionate or sexual behaviour, emotional isolation, school refusal, an inability to sleep, theft, habits such as thumb-sucking, 'frozen watchfulness'.

Remember that these symptoms are 'possible' signs and do not automatically mean that abuse has or is taking place; there may be other explanations. In most cases it will be appropriate to discuss your observations with the student's housemaster to help you decide whether you should refer them to the CP Chair.

Responding to Allegations of Abuse

Listen to the child

Children who report to a teacher or other adult working at Riverside that someone has abused them must be listened to and heard, whatever form the communication may take.

The following points give guidance on how to deal with a child who makes an allegation:

- Listen to the child, but do not conduct an interview or ask the child to repeat the account. Avoid asking questions and make sure that any questions asked are open-ended (i.e. not inviting yes or no as an answer).
- Do not interrupt when the child is recalling significant events.
- Make a careful note of all information, including details such as timing, setting, who was present and what was said, in the child's own words. The account should be obtained verbatim or as near as possible. Try to record what was said as contemporaneously as possible. Notes written up afterwards will carry less weight than those made at the time.
- Take care not to make assumptions about what the child is saying or to make interpretations.
- On no account should you make suggestions to the child as to an alternative explanation for their worries. Staff should point out to the informant that action will be taken as a result of the allegation and you should ask the informant of any steps they would like taken to protect them now that they have made the allegation.
- The written record of the allegations should be signed and dated by the person who received them as soon as is practicable.
- All actions subsequently taken should be recorded.
- The disclosure should be reported to the CP Chair as soon as possible, and certainly within 24 hours.

Remember, no member of staff should promise confidentiality to a student who makes an allegation. In responding to a child who makes such disclosures, account should be taken of the age and understanding of the child and whether the child or others may be at risk of significant harm. While acknowledging the need to create an environment conducive to speaking freely, the member of staff should make it clear to any student asking for confidentiality that he or she will need to pass on what has been told, to ensure the protection of the child concerned. Within that context, the child should then be assured that the matter will be disclosed only to people who need to know, and the child will know who these people are.

Take Action

The member of staff who has listened to the allegations of abuse should report immediately to the CP Chair, who will make an urgent initial assessment. The CP Chair and Deputy Chair will also be immediately contacted. If the CP Chair is the person against whom the allegation is made, the member of staff should report to the Director. The supportive needs of a child who expresses concerns about significant harm should be considered and met, utilising resources within or beyond the school as necessary.

Initial Assessment and Further Action, if appropriate

Immediately an allegation is made, the CP Chair will:

- *obtain written details of the allegation, signed and dated, from the person who received the allegation. (Please refer to Appendix 1)*
- *record any information about times, dates, locations and names of potential witnesses.*
- *where appropriate, talk to the child concerned.*
- *make recommendations about further action to the Director, unless the allegation is against them.*
- **There are four possible outcomes of the initial assessment:**
- *where the student has suffered, is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, the incident will be referred immediately under local child protection*
- *where the child has alleged that a criminal offence has been committed, then again this will be referred under local child protection procedures and the police may carry out a criminal investigation.*
- *the allegation may represent inappropriate behaviour or poor practice by a member of staff (which does not fall within the above categories) that needs to be considered under school disciplinary procedures*
- *the allegation is adjudged to be apparently without foundation.*

Only if the allegation is trivial or demonstrably false, will further investigations not be warranted.

Where the initial assessment by the Child Protection Officer, Chair and Deputy Chair (or, where the allegation is against the CP Chair, the Director) concludes that the allegation warrants investigation, there will be a referral within 24 hours to one or more of the agencies with statutory responsibilities to make enquiries.

If a referral needs to be made, parents will be consulted. In really extreme cases the law allows Schools to by-pass parental consent.

Additional Types of Abuse and Neglect

The following types of abuse and neglect are described in Part 2, Guidance of the Safeguarding Policy.

- Children Missing from Education
- Homelessness
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation: County Lines
- Domestic Abuse
- So-called 'Honour-based' Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- The Prevent Duty & Recognising Extremism
- Peer on Peer Abuse
- Sexting
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools
- Private Fostering
- Forced Marriage

Riverside School identifies students who might need more support in order to be kept safe or to keep themselves safe by following the School's Confidential Record of Concern (attached).

In the event of a report or suspicion of abuse

Any adult at Riverside School who is told of any incident or strong suspicion of physical or sexual child abuse occurring in the school, or to a student of the school at home or outside the school, or who suspects or knows this to be the case themselves must report the information immediately to the CP Chair. In the event of an allegation against the CP Chair, the information should be reported directly to the Head.

The CP Chair may, if necessary, interview the student to clarify the nature of an allegation or suspicion, before deciding on an appropriate course of action. If necessary, an immediate referral will be made to the local Czech Republic Social Services Department or police rather than carrying out an investigation.

NB. School staff (including the CP Chair and the Director) should not investigate reports of physical or sexual abuse themselves. Alleged victims, perpetrators, those reporting abuse and others involved should not be interviewed by school staff beyond the point at which it is clear that there is an allegation of abuse. Guidance on the correct response to a student's disclosure of abuse is given in the Child Protection – General Guidance.

Allegations against members of staff, volunteers and the Head

An allegation of abuse by a teacher or volunteer will be taken very seriously. The quick, consistent and fair resolution of the allegation will be made a clear priority for the benefit of all concerned. If staff members have concerns about another staff member or volunteer then it should be referred to the School Principal who will immediately inform the Director. If the allegations concerns the Director, the person receiving the allegation should immediately inform the Board Member responsible for child protection (Lee Ann Thompson) and the Chair of the Board without notifying the Director first. It should be used in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a teacher or a member of staff has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children

The Principal and Director should immediately discuss the allegation with the Chair of the child protection team. In case of serious harm, the police should be informed from the outset. Sensible precautions will be taken to prevent false allegations being made.

Where child protection concerns involve a member of staff, these will be thoroughly investigated by the relevant agencies. Pending a full investigation, the member of staff may be suspended from duty although in no way is this an admission of impropriety. Staff may also face disciplinary action where, after investigation, serious concerns remain, even though external agencies may have decided that they are not able to proceed any further with the case.

For UK citizens, Riverside School has arrangements with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and can refer any unsuitable employee to the ISA for consideration when the ISA barred list is checked either in its own right or as part of the English DBS process for subsequent employment. A safeguarding authority will be contacted within one month of a person, whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student, leaving the school whose services are no longer used because he or she is considered unsuitable to work with children. For Czech citizens, Riverside has arrangements with the Department of Social Affairs (DSA) and can refer any unsuitable employee to the DSA.

Allegations of abuse made against other children

Children are capable of abusing their peers. Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter” or “part of growing up”.

Gender issues that can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse could, for example, include students being sexually touched/assaulted or students being subject to initiation/hazing type violence.

Where there is a safeguarding concern, staff should ensure the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. Systems should be in place for children to express their views and give feedback. Ultimately, all systems and processes should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

Staff should refer to the Code of Conduct and Promotion of Good Behaviour Policy, Admissions, Discipline & Exclusions Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy for further guidance.

Whistleblowing

Working closely with children is fundamental to teaching in schools. Where such interaction with children exists, so also does the opportunity to abuse them. It is regrettably the case that, in rare instances, teachers and other staff have been found to be responsible for child abuse. Given their daily contact with students in a variety of situations, staff are also vulnerable to allegations of abuse, whether deliberately or innocently false, malicious or misplaced. However, staff should avoid making their own judgments of whether an allegation is false or otherwise.

The Riverside School whistleblowing policy provides staff with an avenue to raise awareness and concern if they feel that a colleague or manager is engaged in conduct that is causing a negative effect upon the welfare and safety of any children in one of the schools. This could also refer to a situation where a staff member considers that behaviour by another member of staff is not being addressed by the management of the school. It provides a clear way to raise awareness of a concern directly to Riverside School. Please refer to the Policy on Whistleblowing.

Staff Training

The induction programme ensures that all staff members working at Riverside School will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, which is regularly updated. In addition, all staff members should receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. This includes the briefing of new staff, as part of their induction after arrival at the school and refresher training for all staff at three-yearly intervals.

All new staff, including temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of their responsibilities as part of the induction process.

Safer Recruitment Guidelines *(Please see the safer recruitment policy for further details)*

The Recruitment Officer will ensure that guidance is followed particularly with respect to the appointment of staff. Staff who will have unsupervised access to students will be subject to the statutory DBS checks and be checked for compliance with the Independent Schools Standards Regulations on appointment.

The CP Chair will gain assurance that appropriate child protection checks and procedures apply to any staff employed by another organisation who are working with the school's students.

CHILD PROTECTION - General guidance

The Law and Child Protection

Current legislation, is framed around the principle that the child's interests are paramount. In particular, the law now assumes the following:

- **We share responsibility for 'safeguarding and promoting' each student's welfare with other adults and agencies. Failure to identify abuse, or potential abuse, and then refer it on may be deemed negligent. The term 'identify' may require us to pick up hints, not just respond to a straight disclosure of abuse - in most cases there may not be one.**
- **The child should be given credence in all circumstances. Even if we consider the 'harm' to be trivial, the child may not. The law takes the child's perspective and interests before all others.**

General Guidance for Staff

Guidance is given to staff to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place students or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to a student, for example, in one-to-one tuition, sports coaching, conveying a student by car, engaging in inappropriate electronic communication with a student, and so on.

Riverside School is required by the legislation to brief all staff on procedures relating to child protection and responding to allegations of child abuse. Staff are asked to operate according to these guidelines.

1.1 Staff should familiarise themselves with the School's Child Protection Policy.

1.2 If staff members have any concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger) a conversation should take place with the child protection officer to agree a course of action. If the child protection office is not available, staff should speak to a member of the senior management team and/or take advice from local children's social care (KCSIE (2018), paragraph 26).

1.3 If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a referral should be made to the appropriate authorities (please see the list of contacts) and/or the police immediately. Anyone can make a referral. Where referrals are not made by the Child Protection Officer and Chair, the designated officer and chair should be informed as soon as possible that a referral has been made.

1.4 Child abuse to be reported includes abuse of a student by a staff member or other adult, abuse at home which a student reports to staff, abuse by a stranger outside school, and abuse of one student by another student. In the case of abuse by a student, or group of students, the key issues identifying the problem as abuse (rather than an isolated instance of bullying or 'adolescent experimentation' which could be handled within the normal framework for discipline) are:

- the frequency, nature and severity of the incident(s);
- whether the victim was coerced by physical force, fear, or by a student or group of students significantly older than himself, or having power or authority over him;
- whether the incident involved a potentially criminal act; and
- whether if the same incident (or injury) had occurred to a member of staff or other adult, it would have been regarded as assault or otherwise actionable.

1.5 Any member of staff who is told of any incident or strong suspicion of physical or sexual child abuse occurring in the School, or to a student of the School at home or outside the School (or who knows of or suspects such abuse) must report the information immediately to the CP Chair. Further guidelines on responding to a disclosure are given below.

Staff are asked not to investigate in detail reports of physical or sexual abuse themselves. The School authorities are asked by the Thirtyone:eight and Kidscape not to interview alleged victims or perpetrators beyond the point at which it is clear that there is an allegation of abuse. Questioning should always be limited to the minimum necessary to seek clarification only, strictly avoiding "leading" the student or making suggestions that introduces your own ideas about what may have happened. (The reason for this requirement is that in the event of any legal action subsequently, the whole matter may be prejudiced by such questioning, which may confuse the law of evidence.). Further interviewing or investigation will be carried out by specially trained staff only, following procedures agreed between (amongst others) the local authority and Police in line with Government requirements.

1.6 Staff should never give absolute guarantees of confidentiality to anyone raising complaints about abuse but may point out that they will pass on information to only a minimum number of people who have to be told to ensure that proper action is taken to sort the problem out. See further guidance below.

1.7 If any of this happens a written record should be made as soon as possible - ideally at the time of the disclosure (see further guidance below and attachment) - and a copy given to the CP Chair.

1.8 Staff should be aware that the Director will, if necessary, suspend from duty, pending investigation, any staff member who is alleged to have abused a student or students. Current advice encourages schools to suspend, without pre-judgement of guilt, and as a precautionary measure, where there is a concern about possible abuse.

1.9 The School is also required to refer all allegations of abuse to the local Social Services Department. This referral must happen within 24 hours (in writing or with written confirmation of a telephone referral). If in doubt, consult the CP Chair.

Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the School

Among the special features of life at Riverside School is an informal atmosphere. Teachers are expected to fulfil many roles in and out of the classroom and are likely to find themselves working with large and small groups of students. Given the risk of false alarms and even deliberate hoaxes on the part of students, staff are advised to think carefully about the setting and nature of their varied relationships with their students so as not to lay themselves open to undue suspicion or accusation. All staff are required to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the Staff Code of Conduct Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.

2.1 It is probably prudent if engaging with students in non-public setting, not to do so on a one to one basis but to meet with at least two students at any one time. This would normally apply for social gatherings as well. Clearly this would not normally apply in an obvious public place like the classroom or office or study, but outside that formal context, care must be taken.

2.2 Inappropriate physical contact should be avoided. Contrary to popular belief, the Children Act says very little about what may or may not be done in this area, beyond the general requirement to look after children properly. There is such a thing as appropriate physical contact and 'non-abusive' actions include:

- *applying restraint to prevent a student harming himself or another person;*
- *removing, with reasonable force, potentially dangerous items from a student's possession, or a student from a dangerous location;*
- *shepherding students, for example with a hand on back or shoulder;*
- *comforting, for example with a hand on shoulder, back or arm; and*
- *securing attention by tapping a student's shoulder.*

It is always unacceptable to harm a child.

2.3 *If you find yourself having to accuse a student of an error of omission or commission beyond the trivial, you should make a brief written record of it and date it.*

2.4 *If you find yourself questioning a student about any serious matter, or one of any possible delicacy, it is advisable to do so with another adult witness present and, again, to make sure that a record is kept. A female teacher questioning a boy should have a male colleague present.*

2.5 *Staff should ensure that if they are in charge of any school activity or facilities where safety regulations and precautions are required, these are clearly published and the attention of students is drawn to them from time to time. Any accidents or other untoward incidents should always be recorded, signed and dated.*

2.6 *It is the responsibility of each member of staff to be aware of the complaints procedure and the policy on sanctions.*

2.7 *It is important not to place students of the same or differing age groups in situations which might make bullying, intimidation or other student-to-student abuse more likely and, where such situations might arise, it is important that proper adult supervision be arranged. Senior students, assisting the supervision of junior ones, should also be aware of this.*

2.8 *Under no circumstances should teaching staff advise on the taking of medicines, increase or decrease of medication and the like. These concerns are strictly within the province of the school's medical staff.*

2.9 *Teaching staff should bear in mind the requirements of both the law, insurance cover, the school's guidelines and good sense if conveying students in cars, minibuses etc.*

In addition to the internal procedures required by the Director when staff plan trips outside the School, either in term or during the holidays, teaching staff should ensure that students are properly supervised and care taken for their safety and security during such trips. In cases where the trip involves obvious risks such as adventure training style activities, the ratio of supervising staff to students should be given careful consideration. Students should be given clear instructions as to timings, rendezvous and the conduct expected of them.

Social Network *(Please see the 'Social Networking Policy' for further guidance)*

Guidance/protection for staff on using social networking

- No member of staff should interact with any student in the school on social networking sites*
- No member of staff should interact with any ex-student in the school on social networking sites who is under the age of 18*
- This means that no member of the school staff should request access to a student's area on the social networking site. Neither should they permit the student access to the staff members' area e.g. by accepting them as a friend.*
- Where family and friends have students in school and there are legitimate family links, please inform the Principal in writing. However, it would not be appropriate to network during the working day on school equipment.*
- If you have any evidence of students or adults using social networking sites in the working day, please contact the named Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school.*

Related Policies & Documents

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) [Part One]; and school leaders and staff that work directly with children should also read Annex A

- *Staff Code of Conduct*
- *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*
- *Positive Behaviour Policy*
- *Anti-Bullying Policy*
- *Policy on Social Networking*
- *Policy on Conduct and Discipline*
- *Policy on Whistleblowing*
- *Policy on E-safety*
- *Policy on PSHE & Citizenship*
- *Policy on Health and Safety*
- *Policy on Record Keeping, Information Sharing, Retention and Storage*
- *Safer Recruitment*
- *Equal Opportunity Policy*
- *Restraint Policy*

Next Review

This policy is to be reviewed, September 2019

Riverside School's Confidential Record of Concern

What prompted this record?

Include date, times, incidents, observations, discussions, behaviours.

Additional notes:

Describe the nature of the concern. Include any relevant information that could explain child's behaviour/situation.

Does the concern fit into one of these categories?

- Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Other

Signed:

Signed:

(Member of staff)

CP Chair

Additional notes:

Describe the nature of the concern. Include any relevant information that could explain child's behaviour/situation.

Further Action:

This can include involvement of parents, agencies, place of concern on file.

Date of Review:

Outcome of Review:



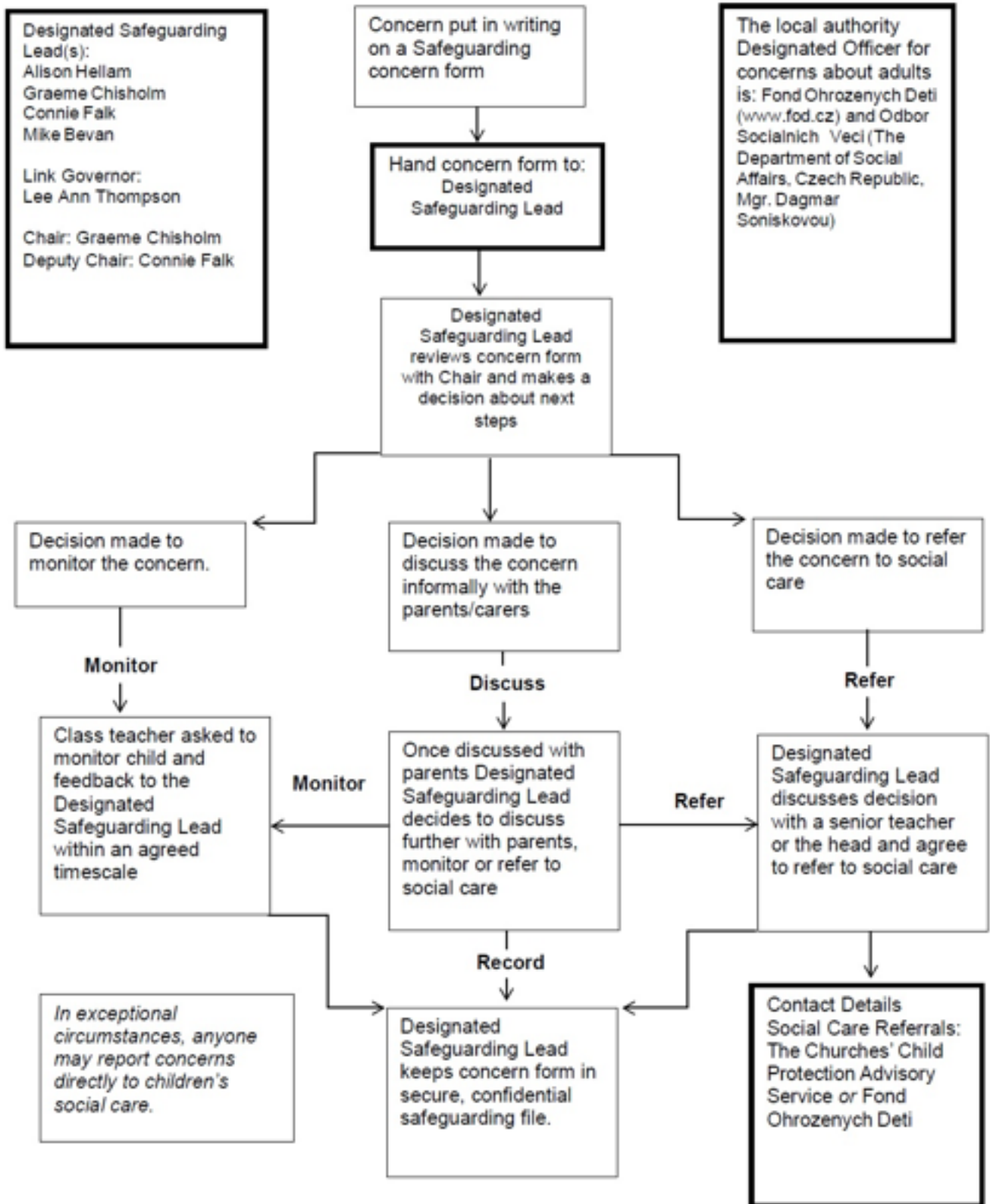
Essential Contacts in the Czech Republic

| Name | Telephone | Websites | Notes |
|--|---|---|---|
| Police | 158 | | |
| Emergency | 155, 112 (English) | | |
| Social Care (OSPOD) | 220 189 611 | www.praha6.cz/odbor06.html | |
| Helpline Dětské krizové centrum | 241484 149 nonstop | www.dkc.cz | |
| Helpline (Linka bezpečí) | 116 111 for children 840 111 234 for parents and adults | www.linkabezpeci.cz (also in English) | |
| Nadace Naše dítě | 266 727 933 | www.nasedite.cz (also in English) | Helping children in difficult situations e.g. abused, exploited, abandoned |
| Helpline DONA | 251 511 313 nonstop | www.donalinka.cz (also in English) | For domestic violence victims |
| FOD, Klokánek shelter ul. Láskova 1803, Praha 4 | 271 912 500 | www.klokanek-laskova.cz | Shelter for mothers and children |
| Úřad pro mezinárodněprávní ochranu dětí Šilingerovo nám.3/4 602 00 Brno | 542 215 522 731 654 879 - only for emergency calls | www.umpod.cz (also in English) | Office for International Legal Protection of Children |
| Drop-In Karoliny Světlé 18, Praha | | | The first place of contact for those in need of help connected with problems concerning non-alcoholic drugs. |
| Poradenská linka pro pedagogy | 841 220 220 777 711 439 | | Helpline for teachers |
| Trafficking | | https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/national-referral-mechanism_en | National Referral mechanism aimed at identifying, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking in human beings |

Essential Contacts in the UK

| Name | Telephone | Websites | Notes |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Trafficking | | http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanismwww.praha6.cz/odbor06.html | National crime agency human trafficking |
| NSPCC | | https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/domestic-abuse/signs-symptoms-effects/ | UK domestic abuse, signs, symptoms. effects |
| Refuge | | http://www.refuge.org.uk/get-help-now/what-is-domestic-violence/effects-of-domestic-violence-on-children/ | effects of domestic violence on children |
| Save Lives | | http://www.safelives.org.uk/knowledge-hub/spotlights/spotlight-3-young-people-and-domestic-abuse | young people & domestic abuse |
| Children Missing in Education | | https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf | |

Riverside School's Flow Chart for Raising Concerns About a Child





Policy on Child Protection (Safeguarding) Part 2 Guidance

Reviewed September 2018

1. Guidance Policy on Record Keeping, Information Sharing, Retention and Storage

“The most important consideration is whether sharing information is likely to support the safeguarding and protection of a child” (Information Sharing, 2018, p. 9).

The 2015 version of the information sharing guidance has been updated in response to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018, and it supersedes the HM Government Information sharing: guidance for practitioners and managers published in March 2015. The GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe. (Information Sharing (2018) Page 5)

The Seven Golden Rules to Sharing Information

1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing, but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice from other practitioners, or Thirtyone:eight, if in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
5. Consider safety and well-being: base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

To Effectively Share Information:

- all practitioners should be confident of the processing conditions, which allow them to store, and share, the information that they need to carry out their safeguarding role. Information which is relevant to safeguarding will often be data which is considered ‘special category personal data’ meaning it is sensitive and personal.
- where practitioners need to share special category personal data, they should be aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 includes ‘safeguarding of children and individuals at risk’ as a condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent
- information can be shared legally without consent, if a practitioner is unable to, cannot be reasonably expected to gain consent from the individual, or if to gain consent could place a child at risk.
- relevant personal information can be shared lawfully if it is to keep a child or individual at risk safe from neglect or physical, emotional or mental harm, or if it is protecting their physical, mental, or emotional well-being.

The Principles

Necessary and Proportionate

When taking decisions about what information to share, you should consider how much information you need to release. Not sharing more data than is necessary to be of use is a key element of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, and you should consider the impact of disclosing information on the information subject and any third parties. Information must be proportionate to the need and level of risk.

Relevant

Only information that is relevant to the purposes should be shared with those who need it. This allows others to do their job effectively and make informed decisions.

Adequate

Information should be adequate for its purpose. Information should be of the right quality to ensure that it can be understood and relied upon. Accurate Information should be accurate and up to date and should clearly distinguish between fact and opinion. If the information is historical then this should be explained.

Timely

Information should be shared in a timely fashion to reduce the risk of missed opportunities to offer support and protection to a child. Timeliness is key in emergency situations and it may not be appropriate to seek consent for information sharing if it could cause delays and therefore place a child or young person at increased risk of harm. Practitioners should ensure that sufficient information is shared, as well as consider the urgency with which to share it.

Secure

Wherever possible, information should be shared in an appropriate, secure way. Practitioners must always follow Riverside's policy on security for handling personal information.

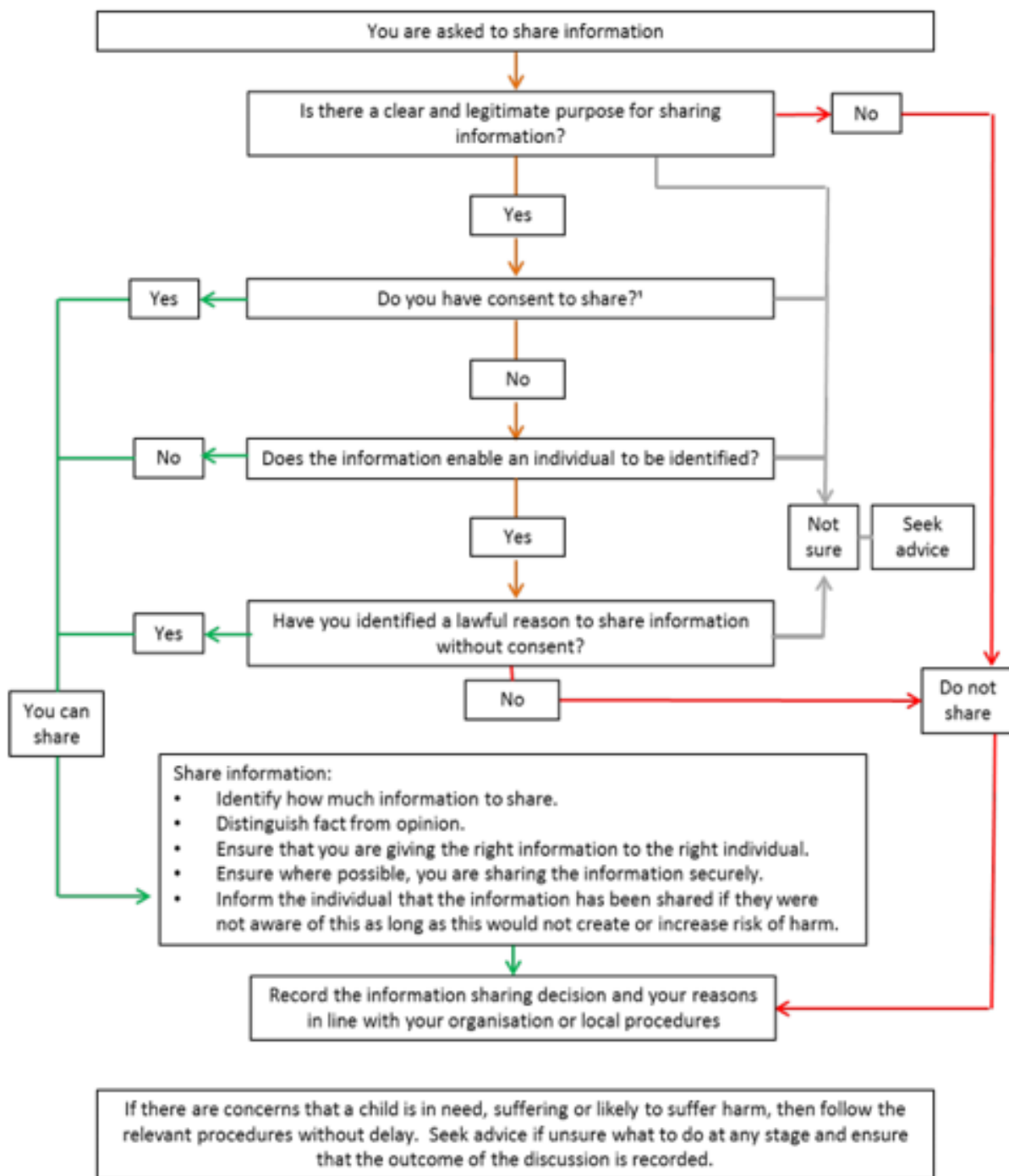
Record

Information sharing decisions should be recorded, whether or not the decision is taken to share. If the decision is to share, reasons should be cited including what information has been shared and with whom, in line with organisational procedures.

If the decision is not to share, it is good practice to record the reasons for this decision and discuss them with the requester.

In line with Riverside's retention policy, the information should not be kept any longer than is necessary. In some rare circumstances, this may be indefinitely, but if this is the case, there should be a review process scheduled at regular intervals to ensure data is not retained where it is unnecessary to do so.

Flowchart of When and How to Share Information



1. Consent must be unambiguous, freely given and may be withdrawn at any time

Please read 'Information sharing – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers'; for further guidance.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

Retention and Storage Guidance

Guiding Principles of Record Keeping

According to Data Protection principles, records containing personal information should be:

- adequate, relevant and not excessive for the purpose(s) for which they are held;
- accurate and up to date; and
- only kept for as long as is necessary (Information Commissioner's Office, 2017(a) and 2017(b)).

The introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2018 does not change the way child protection records should be stored and retained.

Riverside School must:

- know the reason why we are keeping records about children and/or adults (for example, because they relate to child protection concerns);
- assess how long we need to keep the records for; and
- have a plan for how and when the records will be destroyed.

To keep personal information secure, Riverside School should:

- compile and label files carefully;
- keep files containing sensitive or confidential data secure and allow access on a 'need to know' basis;
- keep a log so you can see who has accessed the confidential files, when, and the titles of the files they have used.

Concerns about children's safety and wellbeing

If anyone at Riverside School has concerns about a child or young person's welfare or safety, it's vital all relevant details are recorded. This must be done regardless of whether the concerns are shared with the police or children's social care.

Keep an accurate record of:

- the date and time of the incident/disclosure;
- the date and time of the report;
- the name and role of the person to whom the concern was originally reported and their contact details;
- the name and role of the person making the report (if this is different to the above) and their contact details;
- the names of all parties who were involved in the incident, including any witnesses to an event;
- what was said or done and by whom;
- any action taken to look into the matter;
- any further action taken (such as a referral being made); and
- the reasons why the organisation decided not to refer those concerns to a statutory agency (if relevant).

Make sure the report is factual. Any interpretation or inference drawn from what was observed, said or alleged should be clearly recorded as such. The record should always be signed by the person making the report.

Storage of child protection records

- Information about child protection concerns and referrals should be kept in a separate child protection file for each child, rather than in one 'concern log'. The child protection file should be started as soon as you become aware of any concerns.
- It is good practice to keep child protection files separate from a child's general records. You should mark the general record to indicate that there is a separate child protection file.

Retention periods: child protection records

The guidance for schools on record keeping and management of child protection information states that:

Child protection files should be passed on to any new school the child attends and kept until they are 25 (this is 7 years after they reach the school leaving age) (IRMS, 2016).

If the school decides not to share its concerns about a child's welfare with the police or social services, it should still keep a record of the issues that were raised.

In some cases, records can be kept for longer periods – see the 'Exceptions' section below for more information.

Recording concerns about adult behaviour

Sometimes concerns might be raised about an adult who works or volunteers with children. This could be because they have:

- *behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child;*
- *committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child; or*
- *behaved in a way that indicates they are unsuitable to work with young people.*

You must keep clear and comprehensive records of all allegations made against adults working or volunteering with children, including;

- *what the allegations were;*
- *how the allegations were followed up;*
- *how things were resolved;*
- *any action taken; and*
- *decisions reached about the person's suitability to work with children.*

Keeping these records will enable you to give accurate information if you are ever asked for it. For example:

- *in response to future requests for a reference;*
- *if a future employer asks for clarification about information disclosed as part of a vetting and barring check; or*
- *if allegations resurface after a period of time.*

Storing records relating to adults

Records relating to concerns about an adult's behaviour should be kept in the person's confidential personnel file (not in a central 'concerns log') and a copy should be given to the individual.

Retention periods: concerns about adults

If concerns have been raised about an adult's behaviour around children, the school should keep the records in their personnel file either until they reach the age of 65 or for 10 years - whichever is longer (IRMS, 2016). This applies to volunteers and paid staff.

For example:

- *If someone is 60 when the investigation into the allegation is concluded, we keep until their 70th birthday.*
- *If someone is 30, we keep until they are aged 65.*

The school should keep records for the same amount of time regardless of whether the allegations were unfounded. However, if the school finds that allegations are malicious it should destroy the record immediately. Information should be kept for this length of time even if the person stops working or volunteering for the organisation.

Exceptions

In some cases, records can be kept for longer periods of time. For example, if:

- the records provide information about a child's personal history, which they might want to access at a later date;
- the records have been maintained for the purposes of research;
- the information in the records is relevant to legal action that has been started but not finished; or
- the records have been archived for historical purposes (for example if the records are relevant to legal proceedings involving the organisation).

Where there are legal proceedings it is best to seek legal advice about how long to retain your records.

Some records are subject to statutory requirements and have a specific retention period. This includes records relating to:

- children who have been 'looked after' by the local authority;
- adopted children;
- registered foster carers;
- residential children's homes.

The school should check the legislation to see which rules apply to its organisation. Links to the legislation in each of the UK nations is available below.

When records are being kept for longer than the recommended period, files must be clearly marked with the reasons for the extension period.

Disclosure and barring checks

The school should not store copies of disclosure and barring check certificates unless there is a dispute about the results of the check. Instead, a confidential record should be kept of:

- the date the check was completed;
- the level and type of check (standard/enhanced/barred list check and the relevant workforce);
- the reference number of the certificate; and
- the decision made about whether the person was employed (with reasons).

If there is a dispute about the results of a check, the school may keep a copy of the certificate for not longer than 6 months.

Destruction of child protection records

When the retention period finishes, confidential records should be incinerated or shredded in the presence of a member of the organisation or entrusted to a firm specialising in the destruction of confidential material. At the same time any electronic versions of the record must be purged.

If not shredded immediately, all confidential records must be held in a secured plastic bag, labelled as confidential and locked in a cupboard or other secure place; or placed in a confidential waste bin.

Reviewing your child protection records retention and storage policy

The school should review its child protection records retention and storage policy regularly to make sure it is effective and continues to comply with current legislation and guidance. This should be carried out as part of a wider review of safeguarding policies and procedures.

If the school makes changes to its child protection records retention and storage policy, it is best practice to keep a copy of the original version, including a record of the changes made and why. The school should clearly mark the old version so it's clear it has been superseded.

Summary: key points to consider

The school must consider the following questions when developing or reviewing its child protection records retention and storage policy:

- Is its record-keeping in line with data protection principles?
- What records will the school retain and for what purpose?
- How will the records be stored and who will have access to them?
- How long should the school retain records for?
- Does the school need to follow any statutory requirements about the retention of its records?
- What arrangements does the school need to review records?
- What arrangements does the school need to destroy them?
- Does the school's insurer stipulate anything about record retention periods?
- Does the school's regulatory/inspection body (if applicable) set out any minimum expectations about record keeping, retention and destruction?
- Do the school's local safeguarding agencies provide guidance on record retention and destruction that the school is expected to follow?

For more information, please read 'Information sharing – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers', 2018.

2. Additional Types of Abuse and Neglect

Children Missing from Education

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of Safeguarding. Missing school can be an indicator of abuse and neglect and may also raise concerns about others safeguarding issues, including the criminal exploitation of children.

At Riverside we monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance without delay. The school will always follow up with parents/carers when students are not at school. This means the school needs to have at least two up to date contact numbers for parents/carers.

Parents should remember to update the school as soon as possible if the numbers change. In response to the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018) the school has:

1. Staff who understand what to do when children do not attend regularly.
2. Appropriate policies, procedures and responses for students who go missing from education (especially on repeat occasions).

Child Criminal Exploitation: County Lines

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas and market towns.

Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism (European Commission) should be considered.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- *can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;*
- *can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;*
- *can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;*
- *can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;*
- *can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and*
- *is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.*

Domestic Abuse

The UK cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- *psychological;*
- *physical;*
- *sexual;*
- *financial; and*
- *emotional*

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

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 as such.

Where staff are concerned that a child might be at risk of HBV, they must contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead as a matter of urgency. If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of HBV or who has suffered from HBV, they should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy).

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs.

It is a criminal offence in the Czech Republic, integrated in paragraph 199 of the Penal Code, and a form of violence against woman and physical abuse. However, there is no specific law or provision addressing FGM or any other type of mutilation in the Czech Republic.

FGM typically takes place between birth and around 15 years old; however, it is believed that the majority of cases happen between the ages of 5 and 8.

Risk factors for FGM include:

- low level of integration into society
- mother or a sister who has undergone FGM
- 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

Symptoms of FGM

FGM may be likely if there is a visiting female elder, there is talk of a special procedure or celebration to become a woman, or parents wish to take their daughter out-of-school to visit an 'at-risk' country (especially before the summer holidays), or parents who wish to withdraw their children from learning about FGM.

Indications that FGM may have already taken place may include:

- difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
- spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
- frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- prolonged or repeated absences from school or college, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl's return
- reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.
- confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

It is the duty of the school to notify police when they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. This will usually come from a disclosure. Teachers must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out; and discuss any such cases with the safeguarding lead and children's social care. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases.

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 students, 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.

The Prevent Duty

Riverside School has a duty to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism'. This has become known as the 'Prevent Duty'. Where staff are concerned that children and young people are developing extremist views or show signs of becoming radicalized, they should discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The school uses the curriculum to ensure that children and young people understand how people with extreme views share these with others, especially using the internet. Riverside is committed to ensuring that our students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for success in life. Teaching the school's Core Values alongside the School's Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Recognizing Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

Peer on Peer Abuse

Staff should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence and sexual harassment;
- gender-based violence
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- initiation-type violence and rituals.

Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter" or "part of growing up". Different gender issues can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse. This could for example include girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to initiation-type violence.

At Riverside School we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other students.

We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy.

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 student, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

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

At Riverside School we will support the victims of peer on peer abuse utilizing our counselling service.

Sexting

In cases of 'sexting' we follow guidance given to schools and colleges by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) published in 2017: 'Sexting in schools and colleges, responding to incidents, and safeguarding young people.'

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable.

It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and LGBT children are at greater risk. Staff should be aware of the importance of:

- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys"; and
- challenging behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

What is Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment?

Sexual Violence

When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003/105 (UK) and Czech Republic Criminal Code, Sections 186, 187 and 198 and Antidiscrimination Act of 2009.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment means 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. When the school references sexual harassment, it does so in the context of child on child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

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

The response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment

The initial response to a report from a child is important. It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Please see the appendix for guidance on Homelessness, Private Fostering and Forced Marriage.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity: (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact: it can also occur through the use of technology.

Like all forms of child sex abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- *can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 15 and 16 year olds who can legally consent to have sex; (Czech act No. 218/2003 Sb. effective since 2004 January 1, covers cases when there is any kind of trust/dependence, for example, staff member-student.)*
- *can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;*
- *can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;*
- *can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;*
- *can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;*
- *may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media);*
- *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; and*
- *is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.*

Some of the following signs may be indicators of child 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.*

More information can be found in: Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners (DfE 2017).

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

The UK Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new legal duty on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help including an assessment of their needs and circumstances, the development of a personalised housing plan, and work to help them retain their accommodation or find a new place to live. The following fact sheet usefully summarises the new duties: Homeless Reduction Act Factsheet. The new duties shift focus to early intervention and encourage those at risk to seek support as soon as possible, before they are facing a homelessness crisis.

In most cases school and college staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support. Children's services will be the lead agency for these young people and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances.

The UK Department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published joint statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/ or require accommodation.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

In the UK, Parents and private foster carers both have a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence.

Whilst most privately fostered children are appropriately supported and looked after, they are a potentially vulnerable group who should be monitored by the local authority, particularly when the child has come from another country. In some cases privately fostered children are affected by abuse and neglect, or be involved in trafficking, child sexual exploitation or modern-day slavery.

Schools have a mandatory duty to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. Although schools have a duty to inform the local authority, there is no duty for anyone, including the private foster carer or social workers to inform the school. However, it should be clear to the school who has parental responsibility.

School staff should notify the designated safeguarding lead when they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead will speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA. The school itself has a duty to inform the local authority of the private fostering arrangements.

On admission to the school, we will take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the child who is being registered.

Forced Marriage

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in Europe. 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.

The Forced Marriage Unit has published statutory guidance and Multi-agency guidelines, with pages 35-36 of which focus on the role of schools and colleges. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fmufco.gov.uk.