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1.0 Contacts

1.1 School contacts

- Headteacher: Peter Tang 01494 673450
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (Main DSL):
Asha Harding (Deputy Headteacher) - 01494 687948
- Deputies and Additional Designated Safeguarding Leads:

NAME	TITLE	CONTACT
Mr Peter Tang	Headteacher and Deputy DSL	01494 673 450
Mr Marc Brannon	Assistant Headteacher and Deputy DSL	01494 683 991
Mr Billy Sarsfield	Year Leader for Year 11 and DSL	01494 673 450
Mrs Cat Collingridge	Year Leader for Year 10 and DSL	01494 687 958
Mr Alessandro Modebe	Year Leader for Year 9 and DSL	01494 683 990
Miss Kayleigh Edgecombe	Year Leader for Year 8 and DSL	01494 673 450
Mrs Nicola Hodgson	Leader for Year 7 and DSL	01494 687 952
Mrs Kim Borgia	Student Support Officer and DSL	01494 687 956
Mrs Rachel Harmen	Matron and DSL	01494 687 942
Mrs Annie Johnson-Allan	Safeguarding Officer and DSL	01494 673 450

- Governors:

Nominated Safeguarding Governor	Mr James McEvoy
Chair of Governors	Mr James McEvoy

1.2 Contacts in County

Education Safeguarding Advisory Service ESAS offers support to education providers to assist them to deliver effectively on all aspects of their safeguarding responsibilities.	01296 382912
First Response Team (including Early Help, Channel) The First Response Team process all new referrals to social care, including children with disabilities. Referrals are assessed by the team to check the seriousness and urgency of the concerns and whether Section 17 and/or Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 apply. The First Response Team will ensure that the referral reaches the appropriate team for assistance in a quick and efficient manner.	01296 383962 Out of hours 0800 999 7677
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) The Buckinghamshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is responsible for overseeing the management of all allegations against	01296 382070

people in a position of trust who work with children in Buckinghamshire on either a paid or voluntary basis	
Bucks Family Information Service Information for families on a range of issues including childcare, finances, parenting and education	01296 383065
Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Procedures, policies and practice guidelines	

Schools Web School bulletin, Safeguarding links, A-Z guide to information and services	
BCC Equalities & School Improvement Manager	01296 382461
BCC Prevent Co-ordinator	01296 674784
Thames Valley Police	101 (999 in case of emergency)

1.3 Other contacts

NSPCC NSPCC	0800 800 5000
Childline Childline	0800 11 11
Kidscape – Parent Advice Line (bullying) (Mon-Weds from 9:30am to 2:30pm) Kidscape	020 7823 5430
Female Genital Mutilation Helpline (NSPCC) NSPCC FGM Helpline	0800 028 3550 fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk
Samaritans - Helpline Samaritans	116 123
Forced Marriages Unit - Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced marriage - GOV.UK	020 7008 0151 fm@fco.gov.uk
Crimestoppers Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
R-U Safe? Barnardos - Children/Young People Sexual Exploitation Service Barnardos RUSafe Bucks	01494 785 552
CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection)	

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's policies including:

- Anti-bullying
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- E-Safety (including use of social media)
- Code of Conduct for Staff and Governors (Staff Code of Conduct)
- Mental Health

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1.** At The Beaconsfield School, we believe that a policy on child protection is founded on the right of all children people to be safe and feel safe, and that it is the fundamental obligation on all schools to robustly secure this right.

This aim of this policy is to provide staff, governors and volunteers with the framework they need to keep children in The Beaconsfield School safe and secure

and to provide parents and carers with the information about how we will safeguard their children whilst in our care.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the **Children Acts 1989 and 2004**; and in line with the following:

- “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018” - July 2018 [Working Together To Safeguard Children July 2018](#)
- “Keeping Children Safe in Education”- statutory guidance for schools and further education colleges - Sept 2020 [KCSIE 2020](#)
- Information Sharing Guidance for Safeguarding Practitioners [Information Sharing Guidance](#) – DfE July 2018
- Children Missing Education; Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities - Sept 2016 [Children missing education - GOV.UK](#)
- Statutory Guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act - 2015 [Prevent Duty Guidance](#)
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges – May 2018 [Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges](#)
- The Equality Act - 2010 [Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - March 2015 [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused](#)
- **COVID-19**: please note that during the coronavirus outbreak, the department issued non-statutory interim guidance on safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers. This guidance has now been withdrawn as the government expects all settings across the nation to reopen for the new academic year in September, with full availability to all learners. Requirements for local interventions in educational settings will continue to be reviewed.
- The school will still refer to the Child Protection policy Annexe drawn up to support the school and students **if** the school were to move into a lockdown mode for the school as a whole or with certain year groups.

2.2. We believe clear governance and leadership is central to embedding a safeguarding culture. The Governing Body takes its responsibility seriously under **section 175 of the Education Act 2002** to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; working together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements are in place within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm or whose welfare may be in question. Governors will ensure all staff at the school have read and understood their responsibilities pertaining to **Part 1, Part 5 and Annexe A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2020**. They must ensure that there is an auditable system in place to evidence this.

- 2.3.** All staff are required to read and adhere to the **Staff Code of Conduct**, which governs behaviours expected of them, as well as having an understanding of the **Behaviour Policy** for children and our **Attendance Policy**.
- 2.4.** We recognise all staff and Governors have a full and active part to play in protecting our students from harm, actively promoting their welfare and ensuring that every child's welfare is our paramount concern. Each member of staff is responsible for contributing to a positive culture of safeguarding in The Beaconsfield School.
- 2.5.** All staff believe our school must provide a safe, caring, positive and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual children.
- 2.6.** The school recognises that as well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation outside their homes and from other children. Staff must remain vigilant and alert to these potential risks.
- 2.7.** The aims of this policy are:
- 2.7.1.** To support students' development in ways that will foster security, confidence and resilience, free from discrimination.
- 2.7.2.** To provide an environment in which children feel safe, secure, valued and respected.
- 2.7.3.** Children feel confident that they know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties.
- 2.7.4.** To ensure all teaching staff, non-teaching staff and volunteers:
- are aware of the need to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children
 - identify the need for support early to promote well-being
 - promptly report cases of actual or suspected abuse, in line with guidance from the Buckinghamshire Threshold Document
 - are trained to recognise signs and indicators of potential abuse
- 2.7.5.** To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known to be or thought to be at risk of harm and ensure contribution to assessments of need and support plans for those children.
- 2.7.6.** To acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication, ensuring staff know how and when to share information to protect children in a way that is legal, ethical and timely.
- 2.7.7.** To ensure The Beaconsfield School has a clear system for communicating concerns and a model for open communication between children, teachers, parents/carers and other adults working with children.
- 2.7.8.** To have a clearly understood structured procedure within the school which will, in cases of suspected abuse, be promptly followed by all members of the school community.

- 2.7.9. To ensure the school has robust systems in place to accurately record safeguarding and child protection concerns, which are clearly understood by staff and adhered to. Actions taken to address concerns and outcomes achieved are dealt with in a timely manner, clearly and accurately recorded. These records are securely stored.
- 2.7.10. To develop effective working relationships with all other agencies involved in safeguarding, supporting the needs of children at our school.
- 2.7.11. To ensure that all staff appointed have been through the safer recruitment process and understand the principles of safer working practices as set out in our **Staff Code of Conduct**, which stipulates their duty to report where behaviours of colleagues may have stepped outside of agreed safe practices. All staff must work to develop a positive culture of safeguarding in our school.
- 2.7.12. To provide clarity to other community users of our facilities with regard to our expectations of how they should maintain a safe environment, which supports children's welfare and development. We reserve the right to decline access to use the school facilities where we believe their ethos or practice is not aligned with this policy.
- 2.7.13. This policy is published on our website under the Policies section and hard copies are available from the school office.

3 Responsibilities

- 3.1. All staff, visitors and volunteers understand safeguarding children is **everyone's responsibility** and that they be diligent to help secure children's safety and wellbeing. Any person who receives a disclosure of abuse, an allegation or suspects that abuse may have occurred will report it immediately to Asha Harding (Main Designated Safeguarding Lead; DSL) or, in their absence, to the Additional DSLs as named on the contact sheet page 2 of this policy. In the absence of either of the above, concerns will be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff on site. Staff understand that if there is an immediate risk of harm then the police or First Response will be called directly and the DSL will be updated at the earliest opportunity (see the referral procedure in sections 4 and 7, and allegations against staff in section 9).
- 3.2. Staff must maintain a good working knowledge of the [Buckinghamshire Threshold Document](#) and any updates, how it can be used to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of students and how it should be used to inform decision making regarding a referral to First Response as soon as there is a significant concern.
- 3.3. Staff understand that the most common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect and that previously looked after children remain vulnerable. Staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep both looked after children and previously looked after children safe.
- 3.4. Staff understand increased vulnerability and that barriers exist when recognising abuse and neglect for children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.
- 3.5. The Governing Body understands and fulfils its safeguarding responsibilities. It must:

- 3.5.1. Ensure that the Headteacher and (when not the Headteacher) the main DSL create and maintain a strong, positive culture of safeguarding within the school.
- 3.5.2. Ensure that this policy reflects the unique features of the community we serve and the needs of the students attending our provision (see section 4 introduction for further details). This will be reviewed at least annually in line with changes to guidance and legislation.
- 3.5.3. Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this Child Protection Policy and be satisfied that it is being complied with.
- 3.5.4. Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and has the required level of authority, and also appoint at least one Deputy DSL (known as Additional Designated Safeguarding Leads at The Beaconsfield School). The Headteacher has overall responsibility for safeguarding within the school; they can be the DSL or can delegate that work to a member of the SLT. The SLT must report to the Headteacher on a regular basis. The roles and responsibilities of the DSL and Deputy DSL are made explicit in those post-holders' job descriptions.
- 3.5.5. Recognise the importance of the role of the DSL, ensuring they have sufficient time, training, skills and resources to be effective. Refresher training must be attended every 2 years, in addition knowledge and skills must be refreshed at regular intervals, at least annually.
- 3.5.6. Ensure measures are in place for the governing body to have oversight of how the school's delivery against its safeguarding responsibilities are exercised and evidenced. Ensure robust structures are in place to challenge the Headteacher where there are any identified gaps in practice or procedures are not followed.
- 3.5.7. Recognise the vital contribution that the school can make in helping children to keep safe, through incorporation of safeguarding within the curriculum. This will also be taught through the PHSE curriculum and relevant issues through the Relationship Sex Education (secondary schools, mandatory from Sept. 2020). Ensure that through curriculum content and delivery children in the school understand, at age and stage appropriate levels, safeguarding and how to keep themselves safe in a contextually appropriate way.
- 3.5.8. Ensure safe and effective recruitment policies and disciplinary procedures are in place, which adhere to **Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2020** and legislation referred to therein.
- 3.5.9. Ensure resources are allocated, as a priority, to meet the needs of students requiring child protection or early intervention.
- 3.5.10. Ensure the DSL completes an Annual Safeguarding Report for Governors, demonstrating how we are meeting our statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Ensure a copy of this report is shared with the Education Safeguarding Advisory Service within the specified time frame.

- 3.6.** It is the duty of the Chair of Governors (Mr James McEvoy) to liaise with relevant agencies if any allegations are made against the Headteacher. If there are concerns that issues are not being progressed in an expedient manner, staff/students/parents/carers should escalate concerns to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) via First Response.
- 3.7.** The Governing Body must ensure that a named teacher is designated for Children Looked After (this will be the DSL) and that an up to date list of children who are subject to a Care Order or are accommodated by the County Council is regularly reviewed and updated. The school must work with the Virtual Schools Team to support the educational attainment for those children who are Looked After.
- 3.8.** The governing body has a statutory duty to appoint a Nominated Governor for Child Protection. The Nominated Governor must be familiar with [Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) procedures, Local Authority procedures and guidance issued by the Department for Education. The Nominated Governor must:
- 3.8.1.** Work with the DSL to produce the Child Protection Policy annually.
 - 3.8.2.** Undertake appropriate safeguarding training, to include Prevent Training.
 - 3.8.3.** Ensure child protection is, as a minimum, an annual agenda item for the Governing Body.
 - 3.8.4.** Meet at least termly with the DSL to review and monitor the school's delivery on its safeguarding responsibilities and to review the Single Central Record.
- 3.9.** All governors must complete safeguarding training on appointment, to also include Prevent training.
- 3.10.** Overall responsibility for the safeguarding of students remains with the Headteacher, although tasks may be delegated to other members of the team, including the nominated DSL if appropriate. We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is responsible for:
- 3.10.1.** Creating a culture of safeguarding within the school, where children are protected from harm. Ensuring all staff receive an appropriate level of induction and training to support them to be professionally curious and vigilant in order to question behaviours and challenge perceptions if they have concerns for a student.
 - 3.10.2.** Ensuring children receive the right help at the right time using the Buckinghamshire Threshold Document to inform plans for support or protection (see Appendix for definitions of the categories of abuse).
 - 3.10.3.** Ensuring referrals to partner agencies are followed up in writing, within 24 hrs of initial contact, including referrals to First Response.
 - 3.10.4.** Establishing and embedding a policy and process for recording and storing information about child protection concerns and outcomes achieved, enabling records to be reviewed and an overview gained, in order to support timely interventions and allow prompt follow up. This includes use of the Escalation Process found on the BSCP website.

- 3.10.5.** Ensuring safeguarding records, legislation and guidance are up to date and are maintained in accordance with data protection. Ensuring records are stored safely and securely and remain confidential. That:
- the DSL must share information, both internally and externally, on a 'need to know' basis only, being able to justify the reason for sharing and in accordance with the confidentiality policy.
 - all child protection files are held separately from student educational records.
- 3.10.6.** Maintaining the record of staff safeguarding training. Ensuring that the The Beaconsfield School's most up to date **Child Protection Policy** is widely available (this may be on the website), publishing the **Safeguarding Statement** and other relevant information on the school website. Ensuring that the safeguarding team contact details and photos are displayed in prominent areas around the school and also on the website.
- 3.10.7.** Being the designated point of contact for staff to be able to discuss and share their concerns, developing a culture whereby staff feel comfortable to do so. In their absence the DSL will ensure the Additional DSL, or most senior member of staff, is available (The DSL and the Additional DSLs are both trained to the same level within The Beaconsfield School).
- 3.10.8.** Being available to staff and outside agencies during school hours and term time for consultation on safeguarding concerns raised. Having responsibility to ensure that cover is arranged outside of term-time during working hours.
- 3.10.9.** During residential and extended school hours, ensuring arrangements are in place for staff to have a point of contact.
- 3.10.10.** Contributing effectively to multiagency working, for the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of children, this could include:
- participating in Strategy discussions;
 - attending Child Protection Case Conferences;
 - submitting reports to the conference, which must be shared in advance with the parents/carers;
 - contributing effectively and taking shared responsibility for core group meetings with all other agencies involved;
 - engaging fully, as requested, in any other multi-agency planning meetings;
 - contributing to the Framework for Assessments process;
 - ensuring coverage is available at all times during the year
- 3.10.11.** Providing the Headteacher (if the Headteacher is not the DSL), with an annual report for the Governing Body, detailing how school delivers on its safeguarding responsibilities and any child protection issues within the

school. The Governing Body will use this report to fulfil its responsibility to provide the Local Authority with information about their safeguarding policies and procedures.

- 3.10.12.** Meeting regularly (at least once a term) with the Nominated Governor to share oversight of the safeguarding provision within the setting, monitor performance and develop plans to rectify any gaps in policy or procedure.
- 3.10.13.** Meeting the statutory requirement to keep up to date with knowledge, enabling them to fulfil their role, including attending mandatory and any other additional relevant training.
- 3.10.14.** Referring immediately to the Police any cases where a criminal offence may have been committed or risk of harm is imminent.

4. Procedures

Our school procedures for all staff, volunteers and visitors in safeguarding and protecting children from harm are in line with Buckinghamshire County Council and [Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) safeguarding procedures, **“Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018”**, **“Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2020** and statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**.

The Beaconsfield School has a unique community reflective of the UK’s modern and diverse society. The school recognises this and responds to their particular needs, which may be through a variety of aspects such as language barriers, cultural issues, the impact of county lines issues and awareness of gangs, whilst ensuring that safeguarding takes precedence when there are any child protection concerns.

We will ensure:

- 4.1** We have a designated member of the Senior Leadership Team who has undertaken appropriate training for the role, as recommended by the BSCP. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be required to update their training in accordance with the Learning Pathway agreed by the BSCP.
- 4.2** We have several members of staff (Additional Designated Safeguarding Leads) who will act in the DSL’s absence and who have also received training for the role of DSL. In the absence of an appropriately trained member of staff, the most senior member of staff on site will assume this role.
- 4.3** All adults (including supply teachers and volunteers) new to our school are made aware of the school’s policy and procedures for child protection, the name and contact details of the DSL, their role and responsibilities under **“Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020”** and the booklet **“What to do if You’re Worried a Child is Being Abused”**. They will have these explained, as part of their induction into the school.
- 4.4** Visitors must be:
 - 4.4.1** Clearly identified with visitor/contractor passes.
 - 4.4.2** Met and directed by school staff/representatives.

- 4.4.3 Signed in and out of the school by school staff.
- 4.4.4 Directed to a poster informing them of how to report a concern on the reverse of the signing in lanyard.
- 4.4.5 Given restricted access to only specific areas of the school, as appropriate.
- 4.4.6 Escorted by a member of staff/representative as required.
- 4.4.7 Given access to students restricted to the purpose of their visit.
- 4.5 All members of staff must complete regular safeguarding training, attend regular refresher training and partake in any training opportunities arranged or delivered by the DSL. Updates must be cascaded to all staff throughout the year, at a minimum of once a year.¹
- 4.6 All parents/carers must be made aware of the school's responsibilities in regard to child protection procedures through this policy, which is available on our website. Hard copies are also available from the school office.
- 4.7 All staff must follow the reporting procedures as follows when reporting any child protection concerns:
 - 4.7.1 Staff must ensure the child is in a safe place and in receipt of support;
 - 4.7.2 Staff must initially report to the DSL using CPOMS electronic system to alert them to the safeguarding/child protection concern;
 - 4.7.3 Staff must make a written report using the school record keeping process (CPOMS). All visitors are asked to inform the safeguarding team:
 - 4.7.4 All concern forms are located on the CPOMS electronic safeguarding systems software.
 - 4.7.5 Staff must ensure the time and date of the incident is recorded;
 - 4.7.6 A factual account of the incident must be recorded, including who was involved, what was said/seen/heard, where the incident took place and any actual words or phrases used by the child;
 - 4.7.7 Use a body map to record any injuries seen or reported by the child:
 - 4.7.8 Staff must sign and date the report giving details of their role within school which is automatically included as part of the CPOMS electronic system.
 - 4.7.9 The DSL must record when the report was passed to them and what action was taken alongside any outcomes achieved – this is recorded automatically via the CPOMS electronic system.
- 4.8 Through our **Attendance Policy**, we have a robust system for monitoring attendance and will act to address absenteeism with parents/carers and students

¹ "Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020" states that staff should receive regular training. Buckinghamshire County Council advises that this takes place no longer than 3 years in between refresher training.

promptly and identify any safeguarding issues arising. The school should be notified on each day of absence.

- 4.9 All children attending our school are required to have a minimum of two identified emergency contacts.
- 4.10 Any student absent for ten school days, where it has not been possible to make contact with a parent/carer, will be reported as a Child Missing in Education (CME) using the **Buckinghamshire CME Protocol**.
- 4.11 Any absence, without satisfactory explanation, of a student currently subject to a child protection or child in need plan is immediately referred to their social worker.
- 4.12 Parents/carers must inform school if there are any changes to a student's living arrangement. The Beaconsfield School has a mandatory duty to inform the local authority, via the First Response Team, if a child under the age of 16 years old lives with someone other than their parent, step-parent, aunt, uncle or grandparent for a period of more than 28 days. This is defined as being a private fostering arrangement.
- 4.13 All staff, parents/carers and children are made aware of the school's escalation process, (the school follows the County's Referral Flow Chart and Threshold Documents which are on the school's website and placed in key office areas around the school site), which can be activated in the event of concerns not being resolved after the first point of contact. We acknowledge an individual's safeguarding responsibility does not end once they have informed the DSL of any concerns, although specific details of further actions may be appropriately withheld by the DSL as information will only be shared on a need to know basis.
- 4.14 Our lettings policy reflects the ongoing responsibility the school has for safeguarding those using the site outside of normal school hours, ensuring the suitability of adults working with children on school sites at any time. School must have sight of the up to date **Child Protection Policy** of any organisation hiring the school's facilities.
- 4.15 The school operates **Safer Recruitment** practices, including ascertaining the suitability of volunteers and employed staff, both employed directly or via an agency, who are working in regulated activities.
- 4.16 Allegations against members of staff, including volunteers, are referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- 4.17 Our procedures are reviewed and updated annually as a minimum, or as there are changes to legislation.

5. Retention of Records

- 5.1 When a disclosure of abuse or an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer has been made, our school must have a record of this. These records are maintained in a way that is confidential and secure, in accordance with our **Record Keeping Policy** and **Data Protection Legislation**.

- 5.2** There is a statutory requirement for our school to pass any child protection records to the student's next school. The school uses the CPOMS software which can be transferred onto the student's next school either electronically (if the new school/establishment uses this system) or hardcopies can be provided. We are required to have an auditable system in place to evidence we have done so. Any transfer of records will be carried out using a secure method and will be sent separately to the student's general file.
- 5.3** The last statutory school maintains child protection files until a student reaches the age of 25 years, therefore if the transfer school is unknown, or a student is going to be electively home educated, any child protection files will remain at our school in a secure location. Child protection files will only be destroyed when the student reaches their 25th birthday.
- 5.4** We have a robust system for reviewing our archived information held. Our files are stored and disposed of in line with GDPR protocols.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1** We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
- 6.2** The Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Additional Designated Safeguarding Leads must only disclose personal information about a student to other members of staff on a need to know basis.
- 6.3** Staff must not keep duplicate or personal records of child protection concerns. All information must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and securely stored in the designated location within the school, separate from the student records.
- 6.4** All staff are aware they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another as they have a duty to share. Staff must, however, reassure the child that information will only be shared with those people who will be able to help them and therefore need to know.
- 6.5** We will always undertake to share our intention to refer a child to Social Care (First Response) with their parent/carer's consent, unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, we will consult with First Response on this point. We recognise that GDPR must not be a barrier for sharing information regarding safeguarding concerns.

7. Dealing with a disclosure

In the event of a child disclosing abuse staff must:

- 7.1** Listen to the child, allowing the child to tell what has happen in their own way, and at their own pace. Staff must not interrupt a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- 7.2** Remain calm. Be reassuring and supportive, endeavouring to not respond emotionally.
- 7.3** Not ask leading questions. Staff are reminded to ask questions only when seeking clarification about something the child may have said or to gain sufficient

information to know that this is a safeguarding concern. Staff are trained to use TED; Tell, Explain, Describe.

- 7.4** Make an accurate record of what they have seen/heard using the school's record keeping processes, recording; times, dates or locations mentioned, using as many words and expressions used by the child, as possible. Staff must not substitute anatomically correct names for body part names used by the child.
- 7.5** Reassure the child that they did the right thing in telling someone.
- 7.6** Staff must explain to the child what will happen next and the need for the information to be shared with the DSL.
- 7.7** In the unlikely event the DSL, Deputy DSLs and Additional DSLs not being available, staff are aware they must share concerns with the most senior member of staff.
- 7.8** **If there is immediate risk of harm to a child, staff will NOT DELAY and will ring 999.**
- 7.9** The child will be monitored/accompanied at all times following a disclosure, until a plan is agreed as to how best they can be safeguarded.
- 7.10** Following a report of concerns the DSL must:
- 7.10.1** Decide whether there are sufficient grounds for suspecting significant harm, in which case a referral must be made to First Response and the police if it is appropriate. The rationale for this decision should be recorded by the DSL.
- 7.10.2** Normally the school should try to discuss any concerns about a child's welfare with parents/carers and, where possible, obtain consent before making a referral to First Response. However, in accordance with DfE guidance, this should only be done when it will not place the child at increased risk or could impact a police investigation. Where there are doubts or reservations about involving the child's family, the DSL should clarify with First Response or the police whether the parents/carers should be told about the referral and, if so, when and by whom. This is important in cases where the police may need to conduct a criminal investigation. The child's views should also be taken into account.
- 7.10.3** If there are grounds to suspect a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, the DSL (or Deputies or Additional DSLs) must contact First Response by telephone in first instance and then completing the Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) making a clear statement of:
- the known facts
 - any suspicions or allegations
 - whether or not there has been any contact with the child's family
- 7.10.4** If the child is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the police must be called. The DSL must then notify First Response of the occurrence and what action has been taken.

- 7.10.5** If a child needs urgent medical attention, the DSL (or Deputies or Additional DSLs) should call an ambulance via 999. DSL to contact First Response; advice to be sought from First Response about informing parents/carers.

8. Supporting Staff

- 8.1** We recognise that staff becoming involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm, could find the situation stressful and upsetting.
- 8.2** We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSL and to seek further support if necessary. This could be provided by the Headteacher or another trusted colleague, Occupational Health, and/or a representative of a professional body, Employee Assistance Programme (PAM) or trade union, as appropriate.
- 8.3** In consultation with all staff, we have adopted a **Code of Conduct** for staff working in our school. This forms part of staff induction and is in the staff handbook. All staff know how to access the **Code of Conduct** to refer to it.
- 8.4** All staff are required to sign that they have read, understood and agree to comply with the agreed standards of practice set out in the staff **Code of Conduct**.

9. Allegations against staff and volunteers (including Governors)

- 9.1** All school staff and volunteers must take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents/carers to be conducted in view of other adults (See also section 7 above). There must be no 1:1 contact between staff and students which is not “open to the casual observer”.
- 9.2** We understand that a student may make an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer. If such an allegation is made, the member of staff notified of the allegation will immediately inform the Headteacher or the most senior teacher if the Headteacher is not present.
- 9.3** The Headteacher/Senior Teacher on all such occasions must immediately discuss the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The purpose of an initial discussion is for the LADO and the Case Manager to consider the nature, content and context of the allegation and agree a course of action.
- 9.4** The Head Teacher/Senior Teacher must:
- 9.4.1** Follow all advice given by the LADO throughout the investigation process, including how to manage the staff member or volunteer against whom the allegation is made, as well as supporting other staff and volunteers within the workplace.

- 9.4.2** Follow all advice given by the LADO relating to supporting the child making the allegation, as well as other children connected to the organisation.
- 9.4.3** Ensure feedback is provided to the LADO about the outcome of any internal investigations.
- 9.5** If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the Headteacher, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult the LADO without notifying the Headteacher first.
- 9.6** The school will follow the local safeguarding procedures for managing allegations against staff and volunteers, a copy of which can be found in the school's shared area on line.
- 9.7** Suspension of the member of staff against whom an allegation has been made needs careful consideration and, if necessary, we will consult with the LADO in making this decision. Guidance will also be sought from HR.
- 9.8** If a suspension is made, restrictions will apply to all staff and volunteers regarding contact with them whilst they are suspended, including contact via social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.
- 9.9** Our lettings agreement for other users requires that the organiser will follow the Buckinghamshire County Council procedures for managing allegations against staff and where necessary, the suspension of adults from school premises.
- 9.10** Should an individual staff member, governor or volunteer be involved in child protection, other safeguarding procedures or Police investigations in relation to abuse or neglect, they must immediately inform the Head Teacher. In these circumstances, the school will need to assess whether there is any potential for risk of transfer to the workplace and the individual's own work with children.

10. Whistleblowing

- 10.1** We have a **Whistleblowing Policy** which can be found on the staff shared area on line.
- 10.2** Staff are required to familiarise themselves with this document during their induction period.
- 10.3** All staff must be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and report their concerns to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

11. Physical intervention/Positive handling

- 11.1** Our policy on physical intervention/positive handling by staff is set out separately, as part of our Staff Code of Conduct.

12. Anti-Bullying

12.1 Anti-Bullying is referenced within the **Anti-bullying Policy** and measures are in place to prevent and respond to all forms of bullying, which acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

13. Discriminatory Incidents

13.1 In line with the **Equalities Act 2010**, our **Equality Objectives Policy** addresses all forms of discriminatory incidents. It takes into account the guidance offered by the Buckinghamshire guidance document 'Equally Safe – Dealing with Prejudice Related Incidents Guidance for Schools'.

14. Health and Safety

14.1 We recognise the importance of safeguarding students throughout the school day. Our **Health and Safety policy** reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children, both physically and emotionally, within the school environment.

14.2 Part of the safeguarding measures we have in place include the safe dropping off and collection of students at the start and end of the school day. All parents/carers must deliver their children to school and collect them from school or make alternative and safe arrangements for their child to travel to and from school. Parents/carers are expected to inform us if there is to be a change in the arrangement of collection for their child. Taxi collection and drop off and bus arrangements at the start and end of the school day are organised by parent/carers/County and are expected to follow expected safe guidelines as stated initially in this section

14.3 Students who leave the site during the school day do so only with the written permission of a parent/carer and are collected by an authorised adult where appropriate. School should be notified by the parents/carers regarding whom they have authorised for this task. Students are expected to use the school's signing in and out procedure for those students who are late in or collected early.

14.4 Parents/carers are expected to organise the safe handover of students from an extended provision at the start and end of the school day.

14.5 In the event of a student going missing during the course of the school day we will carry out immediate checks to ensure the student is not on site, we will then make contact with the student's parents/carers and inform the police.

15. Prevent Duty

15.1 We are aware of the Prevent Duty under **Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015** to protect young people from being drawn into terrorism.

This is as a safeguarding matter like any other and these processes will be applied to support children and their families where vulnerabilities are identified.

- 15.2 All school staff and governors have completed Prevent training.
- 15.3 We have in place and monitor appropriate web filtering systems so that students cannot view potentially extreme material.
- 15.4 Staff understand the need for a culture of vigilance to be present in the school to support safeguarding. This includes awareness and sensitivity to changes in the attitudes of students, which may indicate they are at risk of radicalisation.

16. E-Safety

- 16.1 All staff are aware of the school policy on **E-Safety** which sets out our expectations relating to:
 - 16.1.1 Creating a safer online learning environment,
 - 16.1.2 Giving everyone the skills, knowledge and understanding to help children stay safe on-line, question the information they are accessing and support the development of critical thinking,
 - 16.1.3 Inspiring safe and responsible use of mobile technologies, to combat behaviours on-line which may make students vulnerable, including sexting (youth-produced sexual imagery),
 - 16.1.4 Use of mobile technology both within school and on school trips/ outings
 - 16.1.5 Use of camera equipment, including smart phones,
 - 16.1.6 What steps to take if there are concerns and where to go for help,
 - 16.1.7 Staff use of social media as set out in the **Staff Code of Conduct**.
- 16.2 Cyber-bullying by children, via texts, social media and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. This includes sexting and image exchange under threat or through coercion. This also relates to issues outside of school. The school may need to pass information onto relevant agencies in these circumstances and ask parent/carers to report any forms of bullying to relevant agencies outside of school, e.g. the police.
- 16.3 Students, staff and parents/carers are supported to understand the risks posed by:
 - 16.3.1 the CONTENT accessed by students
 - 16.3.2 their CONDUCT on-line
 - 16.3.3 and who they have CONTACT with in the digital world.
- 16.4 We have a separate **Mobile Phone Policy** which sets out the acceptable use of mobile technologies by students whilst onsite. Note that student mobile phones are banned from the school site. This includes sanctions, which will be applied when these boundaries are not adhered to.

- 16.5** Visitors to our school are respectfully requested to turn all mobile devices off. This is a safeguarding measure for our students.
- 16.6** Staff use of mobile technology whilst on site is set out in the **Staff Code of Conduct**.

17. Sexting

Sexting', also referred to as 'youth produced sexual imagery', is one of a number of 'risk-taking' behaviours associated with the use of digital technologies, social media or the internet. It is accepted that children experiment and challenge boundaries and therefore the risks associated with 'online' activity can never be completely eliminated.

- 17.1** Staff, students and parents/carers are supported, via training, to understand the creation and sharing of sexual imagery, such as photos or videos, of under 18s is illegal. This includes images of students themselves if they are under the age of 18.
- 17.2** Any youth produced sexual imagery disclosures will follow the normal safeguarding practices and protocols for our school. We will also use the guidelines for responding to incidents, as set out in the publication '[Sexting in Schools and Colleges](#)' produced by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety.
- 17.3** If the incident meets the threshold it may be necessary to refer to the police in a timely manner; contact will be through a safer schools officer, a PCSO (Police Community Security Officer), local neighbourhood police or by dialling 101. Such a report will result in an Outcome 21 record being generated by the police. We will always endeavour to speak to the parents/carers of the students involved prior to any report being made to the police.

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

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity.

Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse.

It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online.

More information include definitions and indicators are included in Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2020.

18. Peer on Peer Abuse

The Beaconsfield School believes that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment free from harm by both adults and other students. We recognise that some safeguarding concerns can occur via peer on peer abuse.

- 18.1 All staff operate a zero-tolerance policy to peer on peer abuse and will not pass off incidents as 'banter' or 'just growing up'.
- 18.2 All staff recognise that peer on peer issues may include, but may not be limited to:
 - 18.2.1 Bullying (including cyber bullying)
 - 18.2.2 Racial abuse
 - 18.2.3 Physical abuse, such as hitting, hair-pulling, shaking, biting or other forms of physical harm
 - 18.2.4 Sexual violence and sexual harassment
 - 18.2.5 Abuse related to sexual orientation or identity
 - 18.2.6 Sexting as set out in section 17
 - 18.2.7 Initiation type violence and rituals
 - 18.2.8 Emotional abuse
- 18.3 The following will be considered when dealing with incidents:
 - 18.3.1 Whether there is a large difference in power between the victim and perpetrator i.e. size, age, ability, perceived social status or vulnerabilities, including SEND, CP/CIN or LAC
 - 18.3.2 Whether the perpetrator has previously tried to harm or intimidate students
 - 18.3.3 Any concerns about the intentions of the alleged perpetrator
- 18.4 In order to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse taking place, school must:
 - 18.4.1 Deliver PSHE to include teaching students about how to keep safe and understanding what acceptable behaviour looks like
 - 18.4.2 Ensure that students know that all members of staff will listen to them if they have concerns and will act upon them
 - 18.4.3 Have systems in place for any students to be able to voice concerns
 - 18.4.4 Develop robust risk assessments if appropriate
 - 18.4.5 Refer to any other relevant policies when dealing with incidents, such as the **Behaviour Policy** and/or the **Anti-Bullying Policy**

- 18.5** We recognise that ‘Upskirting’ involves taking a photograph under an individual’s clothing without their knowledge. We understand that it causes the victim distress and humiliation. Staff recognise that ‘Upskirting’ is a criminal offence and must promptly report any such incidence to the Headteacher, DSL or most senior member of staff.
- 18.6** Reference will be made to the following government guidance and part 5 of the **Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2020** to ensure that all staff have an understanding of the serious nature of sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools. [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges - GOV.UK](#)

18.7 Mental Health

Mental health is explicitly included in the definition of safeguarding, which now includes "preventing impairment of children's **mental** and physical health or development"

- 18.8** All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation

Only trained professionals should make a diagnosis of a mental health problem, but staff are well placed to observe children and identify those whose behaviour suggests they may be experiencing a mental health problem, or be at risk of developing one

- 18.9** Abuse, neglect and other traumatic adverse childhood experiences can have a lasting impact, and it's key that staff are aware of how these experiences can affect children's mental health, behaviour and education

Staff should take action on any mental health concerns that are also safeguarding concerns, following your school's child protection policy and speaking to the DSL or deputy

There's DfE guidance available on [preventing and tackling bullying](#) and [mental health and behaviour](#), as well as Public Health England guidance on [promoting children's emotional health and wellbeing](#) and lesson plans and teaching materials from [Rise Above](#)

18 Cultural Issues

- 18.8** As a school we are aware of the cultural diversity of the community around us and work sensitively to address the unique culture of our students and their families as they relate to safeguarding and child protection. This includes children at risk of harm from abuse arising from culture, faith and belief on the part of their parent, carer or wider community.
- 18.9** Staff must report concerns about abuse linked to culture, faith and beliefs in the same way as other child protection concerns.

19 So Called 'Honour' Based Violence

19.8 Staff at our school understand there is a legal duty to report known cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and So Called 'Honour' Based Violence to the police and they will do this with the support of the DSL. [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information - GOV.UK](#)

19.9 Our school is aware of the need to respond to concerns relating to forced marriage and understand that it is illegal, a form of children abuse and a breach of children's rights. We recognise some students, due to capacity or additional learning needs, may not be able to give an informed consent and this will be dealt with under our child protection processes. The Beaconsfield School staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information. Contact 020 7008 0151 fm@fco.gov.uk

19.10 We are aware of the signs of FGM [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | NSPCC](#)

19.11 We recognise both male and female students may be subject to honour based abuse e.g. where children's cultural background are at odds with their behaviours such as sexuality, under-age sex, relationships, gender identity or life style choices.

19.12 We promote awareness through training and access to resources, ensuring that the signs and indicators are known and recognised by staff.

19.13 Any suspicions or concerns for forced marriage are reported to the DSL who will refer to First Response or the police if emergency action is required.

20 Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, children's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that children form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers may have little influence over these contexts, and children's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent/carer-children relationships.

At The Beaconsfield School we recognise that students may encounter safeguarding issues that happen in the wider community and we will respond to such concerns, reporting to the appropriate agencies in order to support and protect the student.

All staff, and especially the DSLs, will consider the context of incidents that occur outside of school to establish if environmental factors may be putting the student's welfare and safety at risk.

Children who may be alleged perpetrators will also be supported to understand the impact of contextual issues on their safety and welfare.

In such cases the individual needs and vulnerabilities of each child will be considered.

21 All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside school and/or can occur between children outside of this environment

All staff should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families (e.g. sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, serious youth violence)

22 Serious Violence

22.1 All staff are aware of signs and indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with, serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or significant change in well-being or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Staff are aware that unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

22.2 All staff should be aware of the associated risks and understand the measures in place to manage these. Advice for schools and colleges is provided in the Home 8 For further information about sexual violence see Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2020. For further information about sexual harassment see Annex A. For further information about 'upskirting' see Annex A. The Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance.

23 Use of Photography

- a. We will often use photographs and film to capture achievements, monitor a child's development and help promote successes within our school. We like to have a record of all the wonderful activities our students take part in. If parents/carers do not wish for their child to be included in such materials they are asked to complete a form to indicate this wish.

24 Policy Review

- a. The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring the annual review of this policy. The date the next review is due is on the front cover of this policy.

Appendix 1

Everyone who works with children has a duty to safeguard and promote their welfare. They should be aware of the signs and indicators of abuse and know what to do and to whom to speak if they become concerned about a child or if a child discloses to them.

The following is intended as a reference for school staff and parents/carers if they become concerned that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

The Children Act 1989 defines abuse as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer 'significant harm'. Harm means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development. Four categories of abuse are identified:

Categories of Abuse

Child abuse is a form of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical Abuse

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

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and 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 meets 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 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. Sexual abuse can take place online and technology can be used to

facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The [Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool](#) can be used as guidance to support professionals in identifying and responding to sexual behaviour in children.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

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

Exploitation

Exploitation is a form of child abuse and may take a number of forms:

Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual abuse 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 clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

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

[CSE Guidance Core Document](#)

We recognise that exploitation includes the trafficking of children and Modern Day Slavery.

[Victims of modern slavery – frontline staff guidance](#)

Extremism

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

County Lines

As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy (see link below), published by the Home Office, a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting

illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

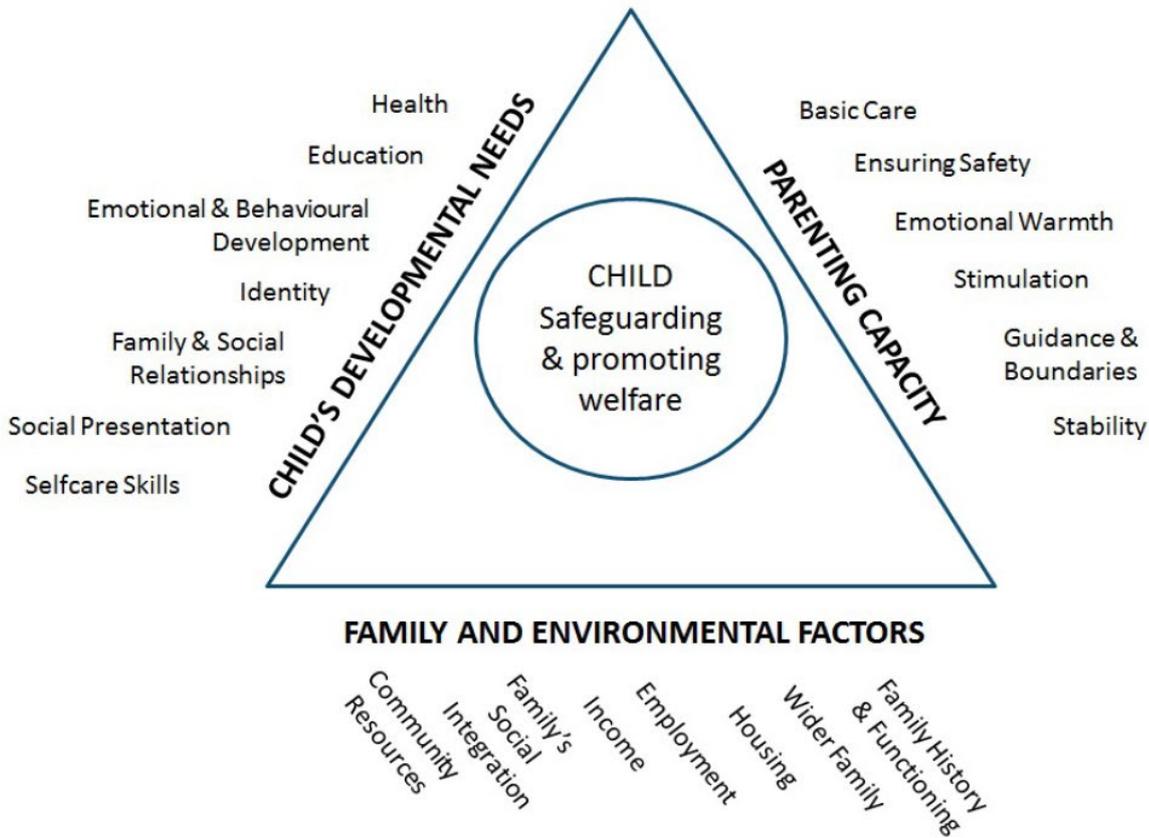
Child Criminal Exploitation

As set out in the [Serious Violence Strategy](#) published by the Home Office, where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Taken from "[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)" 2018

Assessment Framework

(from Working Together to Safeguard Children, July 2018)



Every assessment should draw together relevant information gathered from the child and their family and from relevant practitioners including teachers and school staff, early years workers, health practitioners, the police and adult social care.

Every assessment of a child should reflect the unique characteristics of the child within their family and community context.

Each child whose referral has been accepted by children's social care should have their individual needs assessed, including an analysis of the parental capacity to meet those needs, whether they arise from issues within the family or the wider community.

Frequently, more than one child from the same family is referred and siblings within the family should always be considered.

Appendix 2

ISLAMIC RULES FOR CHILDREN FASTING IN UK SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- 1.0 In Islamic law, children are not required to fast during Ramadan: they are only required to fast when they become adults.
- 2.0 The age of adulthood is disputed: some traditional views look at only biological factors, i.e. puberty. This usually equates to 12-15 years old for boys and 9-15 years old for girls (depending on when their periods start).
- 2.1 The stronger traditional view is that emotional and intellectual maturity is also required for adulthood, i.e. 15-20 years old for both sexes. [This view is found in all four of the main Sunni schools of law - cf. Sheikh Wahba Zuhayli's *Al-Fiqh al-Islami wa adillatuhu* (Islamic Jurisprudence and its Evidential Bases); the age of 18 or 19 was often mentioned classically as true adulthood.
- 3.0 In Islamic tradition, children are often encouraged to fast, even though it is not a legal requirement, in order to prepare them for adulthood. The situation here is analogous to that of prayer (5 times a day), which is also expected of adults. For prayer, the ages of 7-10 are traditionally when they begin. Hence, many parents introduce their children to fasting at a similar age.
- 4.0 In Islamic law, the health of an individual is the first priority after their faith. This is why adults are exempt from fasting if they are sick or face other hardships that make fasting too difficult, e.g. travelling or unduly laborious or safety-critical work, e.g. medical surgeons or airline pilots.
- 5.0 In Islamic law, the decisions of relevant authorities in disputed matters are upheld and respected, e.g. court judgments or school policy.
- 6.0 Hence, if a school has a policy on fasting in the best interest of children, with input from Muslim parents, governors and leaders, parents are obliged by Islamic law to abide by that policy, even if it goes against their wishes.
- 7.0 Violation of such a policy by parents would entail going against their religion in two ways:-
 - By breaking their agreement with the school to abide by its policy and rules; and
 - By mistreating their child, since the school policy and Islamic law have the same purpose, i.e. to safeguard the health and education of the child.
- 8.0 Since Social Services have the same aim as Islamic law also, i.e. to safeguard children, a school's referral to them would also be in accordance with Islam.
- 8.1 Such a step is not ideal, of course, because of the status and importance of parents and the parent-child relationship in both Islam and UK society, and all attempts should be made to reach agreement such that a referral is not necessary.

Sheikh Dr. Usama Hasan – London, July 2013 (Ramadan 1434)

Appendix 3

1.0 Forced Marriage Policy

In our school community we are aware arranged marriages are part of the cultural practices of some of our families. Staff at The Beaconsfield School recognise there is a clear distinction between a marriage which the spousal parties are willing and able to give an informed consent to and a marriage which is 'forced'.

- 1.1 Staff are aware 'forced' marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not and/or cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved.
- 1.2 Staff are alert to the signs and indicators when a young person may be involved in matrimonial arrangements which they are unwilling and or unable to give their informed consent to.
- 1.3 Staff understand the need to be aware of the cultural issues affecting children at school and are able to exercise professional curiosity regarding:
 - Absence and persistent absence.
 - Request for extended leave of absence and failure to return from visits to country of origin.
 - Surveillance by siblings or cousins at school.
 - Decline in behaviour, engagement, performance or punctuality.
 - Being withdrawn from school by those with parental responsibility.
 - Not allowed to attend extra- curricular activities.
 - Sudden announcement of engagement to a stranger.
 - Prevented from going on to further/higher education.
- 1.4 Staff at The Beaconsfield School are aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they have concerns of a potential forced marriage case. This is referred to as the "one chance rule". Forced marriage is seen as a safeguarding issue at The Beaconsfield School and as such is covered during staff induction processes and revisited as part of our safeguarding training.
- 1.5 If a member of the school is concerned that someone is at risk of a forced marriage and/or honour based violence, either in the UK or abroad, they will immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Asha Harding/Alison Wood or another Child Protection officer in their absence.
- 1.6 In light of the one chance rule, if left and there is an immediate risk to the young person, staff will contact the Police on 101 or the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 urgently or by emailing fm@fco.gov.uk

2.0 Initial steps

- 2.1 Staff are mindful to gather information to determine immediate safety needs and for further assessment to be carried out by Social Care or the Police. All cases should be dealt with seriously. There is currently no specific offence associated with forced marriage but the victim concerned may have been subjected to a number of offences (please see "Legislation" section) however forcing someone to marry became a criminal offence in England and Wales in the summer of 2014. The new law criminalises both forced marriage and a breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order. It also includes a range of measures to increase protection and support for victims and a continuing focus on prevention.
- 2.2 Initially agencies MUST:
 - Ensure the victim is seen in a safe and private place.
 - See the victim on their own, or if an interpreter is needed take steps to ensure that the interpreter is an approved interpreter, or at the very least not connected with the individual or community

- Risk assess and discuss a safety plan, complete CAADA DASH Risk Assessment. NB in line with Buckinghamshire's Over-Arching Domestic Violence Protocol, if this is not possible school will make contact with First Response Team who have trained individuals in house for risk assessments to be undertaken
- Where the victim is under 18, refer to child safeguarding procedures.
- Where the victim is over 18, refer to adult safeguarding procedures.
- Inform the victim of their right to seek legal advice and representation.
- Identify any potential criminal offences and refer to the police if appropriate.
- Reassure the victim, this will include ensuring that their confidentiality is maintained (it is important to remember that in these instances family, friends, and community may pose the biggest risk to the victim).
- Establish a safe way of maintaining contact with the victim.
- If the person's capacity to consent to marriage is in doubt, have their mental capacity to consent to marry assessed.
- Make a note of all the information available to you at the time, including a description of the victim and details of any known or alleged perpetrators and potential immediate risks, take a photocopy of passport if possible.
- Record any current contacts with other professionals, health, social services, third sector organisations, etc.
- Check with police and social care to determine whether they have records for past referrals of family members including siblings for example forced marriage of siblings, domestic abuse or missing persons within the family.
- Provide accurate information to the victim about their rights and choices and respect their wishes when possible remembering that in certain instances information may be shared without consent, for example, child protection.
- Contact a specialist in forced marriage for further advice and support, and
- Consider the need for immediate protection and placement away from the family.

2.3 We will not:-

- Attempt to mediate.
- Send the victim away without having taken appropriate action.
- Approach family members and/or members of the community.
- Breach confidentiality or share information inappropriately.
- Make assumptions about mental capacity.
- Make assumptions about communication requirements.
- Use relatives, friends, community leaders and neighbours as interpreters or translators.

2.4 If there are concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm, a referral to the First Response Team will be made (0845 4600001), by telephone without delay. Where the child concerned already has an allocated social worker, referrals to Children's Services should be made to the child's social worker, the team leader or a team colleague. Forced Marriage is a Child Protection issue. Children's Social Care has a duty to investigate allegations of abuse and is seen as one of the agencies with a key role to play. If an allegation of forced marriage is made, or a child/young person discloses that they are at risk, a section 47 investigation should take place. This will be done without parental consent. A referral should be made to the First Response Team or, if out of hours, 08009997677. The following information is needed for the referral; (if you do not have all the information listed, still make the referral - do not delay.)

- Name of child/young person (check all names are spelled correctly).
- Age (check date of birth as accurately as possible).
- Details of any siblings.
- Parent's name(s) (check the surname of the parent is accurate).
- Home address (telephone number, if available).
- Special circumstances; for example, language barriers, context disclosure took place etc. What prompted the concerns? (Include as much detail as possible, including dates, times etc.).

- Any physical or behavioural signs?
- Is the person making the report expressing their own concerns or passing on those of someone else? If so, record details.
- Has the child/young person been spoken to? If so, what was said?
- Is anyone alleged to be the abuser? If so, record details.
- Has anyone else been consulted? If so, record the details.

Appendix 4

1.0 FGM Policy

- 1.1 At The Beaconsfield School, the Headteacher and Governors expect Safeguarding to be everybody's responsibility and for all staff to adhere to and follow the policies in place to support children and their families to stay safe from harm. As a school we embrace the fact that we live in a multi-cultural society, however, we are conscious there are some practices which are permitted in other parts of the world which are against the law in the United Kingdom and the practice of female genital mutilation is one of these.
- 1.2 At The Beaconsfield School we have a robust attendance policy that does not authorise holidays during term time, extended or otherwise.
- 1.3 FGM training has been undertaken by the designated safeguarding lead and training disseminated to all staff at the front line dealing with the children.
- 1.4 There is a clear expectation for staff at The Beaconsfield School to attend training to support them in their understanding of this issue and to be alert to the possible signs that a child may be vulnerable or has been subject to female genital mutilation.
- 1.5 Staff are aware of their responsibility to escalate any concerns, where they believe a child may be at risk of FGM to the designated safeguarding lead. Staff are also aware they can refer the matter directly to the Police if they believe a criminal act has been committed and a child has been subject to FGM.
- 1.6 Staff are aware of the need to take timely and appropriate action in respect of concerns.
- 1.7 Staff at The Beaconsfield School have been made aware that female students are at particular risk of FGM during school summer holidays. This is the time when families may take their children abroad for the procedure. Staff have also been made aware of other times of potential vulnerability; extensions to school holiday times, children missing from education or where a child suddenly leaves the school with no follow on arrangements offered. We understand that many girls may not be aware that they may be at risk of undergoing FGM and we need to be vigilante to indicators of risk.
- 1.8 Staff have been advised of the need to challenge requests from families for extensions to holiday times and to report:-
- Talk of ceremonies to celebrate the young person becoming a woman.
 - Changes in patterns of behaviour if a child is taken out of the country; or
 - Undisclosed health issues where the child is experiencing discomfort in sitting, going to the toilet etc.
 - Changes in patterns of behaviour e.g. withdrawing from PE gym exercises etc.
- 1.9 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will keep an open dialogue on the topic of FGM (ensuring this is done in an age appropriate way) with students and parents from practising communities who may be at risk.
- 1.10 We have a comprehensive PSHE programme which includes Relationship and Sex Education, where discussions about FGM take place.
- 1.11 All staff at The Beaconsfield School are aware FGM is a child protection issue. Concerns will be addressed under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 in common with any other safeguarding matter where it is believed a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering significant harm.
- 1.12 Staff are alert to possible indicators that a child is at risk of FGM:

- The family comes from a community that is known to practice FGM - especially if there are elderly women present in the household or where there is knowledge that other family members may have been subject to FGM.
- In conversation a child may talk about FGM.
- A child may express anxiety about a special ceremony.
- The child may talk or have anxieties about forthcoming holidays to their/family's country of origin.
- Parent/Carer requests permission for authorised absence for overseas travel or you are aware that absence is required for vaccinations.
- If a woman has already undergone FGM – and it comes to the attention of any professional, consideration needs to be given to any Child Protection implications e.g. for younger siblings, extended family members and a referral made to Social Care or the Police; schools must report.

1.13 If we have concerns that children in our school community are at risk or victims of FGM then we refer to the BSCP Guidelines for FGM

1.14 Staff are aware of the need to be vigilant and professionally curious.

1.15 Staff are required to make an accurate record of concerns, observation or comment in line with schools record keeping policy.

1.16 The DSL will refer all concerns re possible or actual FGM to social care via the First Response Team. In the event of information coming to the attention of the DSL that there is an immediate threat to the child or it is believed there is a flight risk or a criminal offence has taken place the DSL will refer immediately and directly to the Police.

1.17 Referral to the First Response Team can be made verbally in the first instance but need to be followed up within 24 hours with a written account using the Multi Agency Referral Form following the usually CP procedures contained within the main body of our CP Policy.

2.0 **Practical Tips**

2.1 These questions and advice are guidance and each case should be dealt with sensitively and considered individually and independently. Using this guidance is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

2.2 What can I ask?

- Talk to children about their holiday.
- Sensitively and informally ask the family about their planned extended holiday. Ask questions like; 'Who is going on the holiday with the child?', 'How long do they plan to go and is there a special celebration planned?'
- Where are they going?
- Are they aware that the school cannot keep their child on roll if they are away for a long period?
- If there is a concern that a child may be vulnerable to FGM then this needs to be reported using the schools CP procedures and / or the information passed to the Police. Are the family aware that FGM including Sunna is illegal in the UK, even if performed abroad?

Appendix 5

Post: **Designated Teacher of Looked After Children**

Purpose: The designated teacher of looked after and previously looked after children will take a leadership role in promoting the educational achievement of every looked after and previously looked after child on our school's roll, and ensuring that their personal, emotional and academic needs are prioritised.

They will also be the central point of initial contact within the school for the external agencies working with these pupils.

Responsible to: **Head Teacher**

Duties and responsibilities:

Ethos and culture

- Contribute to the development and review of whole-school policies and procedures so that they do not unintentionally put looked after and previously looked after children at a disadvantage (for example, procedures such as induction and transition).
- Promote a culture in which looked after and previously looked after children are:
- Prioritised for academic support.
- Encouraged to actively participate in school life.
- Supported to succeed and aspire to further and higher education or highly skilled jobs.
- Able to take ownership of their learning and have opportunities to discuss their progress.
- Able to discuss difficult issues (such as SEN, bullying, attendance) in a frank manner.

Teaching and learning

- Set high expectations of looked after and previously looked after children's learning, and ensure teachers set targets that accelerate progress.
- Advise teachers on differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for looked after or previously looked after children.
- Advise on the use of assessment for learning approaches to improve the progress of these pupils, and help them and their teachers understand where they are in their learning and their next steps.

Looked after children with special educational needs

- Ensure that the SEND code of practice, as it relates to looked after children, is being followed.
- Where any looked after child has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, monitor the pupil's personal education plan (PEP) to ensure it works in harmony with the EHC plan to set out how their needs are being met.

Working with staff

- Ensure that they themselves, and other school staff, have strong awareness, training and skills around the specific needs of looked after and previously looked after children and how to support them.
- Work with the school's designated safeguarding lead to ensure any safeguarding concerns regarding these pupils are quickly and effectively responded to.

Working with carers, parents or guardians

- Promote good home-school links.
- Support progress by ensuring effective communication with carers, parents or guardians
- Ensure carers, parents or guardians understand:
 - The potential value of one-to-one tuition and are equipped to engage with it at home

- How the school teaches skills such as reading and numeracy.
- Encourage high aspirations and working with the child to plan for their future success and fulfilment.

Working with external agencies

- Build and maintain relationships with other professionals, in particular the virtual school head (VSH) and the local authority's SEND department, to ensure the school responds effectively to its pupils' needs.
- Work with relevant professionals, including the VSH, to ensure that they (the designated teacher) and other school staff have the skills to identify signs of potential mental health issues among looked after and previously looked after children, and know how to access further assessment and support where necessary.
- Work with relevant professionals, including social workers and school staff, to develop, monitor and review looked after pupils' personal education plans.

