



POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON SAFEGUARDING / CHILD PROTECTION

This policy (pages 1- 20) is reviewed annually by the governing body

Signature	(Chair of Governors)
Print name	Date

Signature	(Headteacher)
Print name	Date

Signature	(Headteacher)
Print name	Date

Reviewed October 2016 to take account of:

- NCC Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy Checklist 16/17 – June 2016
- Jane Cartlidge attending training update – June 2016 (new definition of CSE, Sexting, Prevent)
- ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ – September 2016

Reviewed January 2017 to take account of:

- Jane Cartlidge attending training update December 2016 (Children Missing from Education)
- Governing Body attending training
- ‘My Concern’ implementation

Reviewed September 2018 to take account of:

- ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ – September 2018
- Change in contact information for Northamptonshire Safeguarding Hun

CONTENTS

Named staff & initial contacts	3
Introduction	4
Safeguarding Commitment	5
Roles and Responsibilities	
General	6
Governing Body	6
Headteacher	7
Designated Safeguarding Lead	8
Records, Monitoring and Transfer	8
Support to pupils and School Staff	9
Other Relevant Policies	10
Recruitment and Selection of Staff	10
Useful links – Local and National	12 & 13
Appendix 1 – Definitions of abuse	14 & 15
Appendix 2 - Procedure to follow in cases of possible, alleged or suspected abuse	16
Appendix 3 - Procedure for allegations against staff and volunteers	18

Named staff and initial contacts

Headteacher: Jane Cartlidge

Chair of Governors: Lee Marland

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jane Cartlidge

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/s: Nicola Meadows – EYFS Phase Leader, Sian Randall-Jones – Deputy Headteacher (note: at least one of the three responsible members of staff can be reached at all times through school contact in school hours and term time and through provision of a designated school phone out of hours or out of term time – this number has been provided to the MASH team).

Looked After Children: Jane Cartlidge

E-Safety Lead: Sian Randall-Jones

Nominated Safeguarding Governor: Jayne Murphy

Quick Guide - if you have a concern:

- **School Safeguarding Concerns are reported to the DSL or one of the DDSL – in person if urgent (with written to follow), written if not urgent.**
- **Use a PINK FORM (available from Front Office, HT Office, Staff Room) to report a concern or use 'My Concern'. Hand Pink Form to DSL or DDSL or place in designated drawer in HT's office or give to Front Office.**
- **If you are unsure that your concern has been acted upon – follow it up and check.**

Safeguarding, advice and training contacts:

Safeguarding Referrals must be made in one of the following ways:

- If a child is in immediate danger at any time, left alone or missing, you should contact the police directly and/or an ambulance using 999.**
- By telephone contact to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: **0300 126 1000**;
- By e-mail to: MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk;
- By using the online referral form found at <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/more/borough-and-district-councils/how-to-make-an-online-referral/>
- In an emergency outside office hours, by contacting the Emergency Duty Team or the Police.
- For referral for concerns regarding adults in education (e.g. staff): Designated Officers (formerly LADO) – 01604 367677 LADOREferral@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (M.A.S.H)

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) deals with referrals from professionals and members of the public who may have concerns about a child's welfare following contact with the helpline that is now also based in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. It makes the process of dealing with referrals quicker and more effective by improving the way county council: Children's social care, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), Youth Offending Service (YOS) and education, work alongside other partner agency colleagues including Northamptonshire police, Northamptonshire health partners, National Probation Service, and the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) to share information.

I Introduction

- I.1 Southfield Primary Academy fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils in school. The pupils' welfare and safety is of paramount importance. The aim of the policy is to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety and health by fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: 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 to have the best outcomes.

- I.2 Southfield Primary Academy are clear that safeguarding is what we do for all children and Child Protection is what we do for children who have been harmed or at risk of being harmed

- the legal duty on schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as described in section 175 of the Education Act 2002 [or section 157 of the Education Act 2002 for independent schools and academies]
- the statutory guidance "*Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges*" – Updated September 2018
- The government's '*Working Together to Safeguard Children March 2015*' which sets out statutory guidance for agencies
- The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Procedures, which contain procedures and guidance for safeguarding children.

- I.3 There are four main elements to our Child Protection Policy:

- Prevention** (e.g. positive, supportive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support to pupils, safer recruitment procedures);
- Protection** (by following agreed procedures, ensuring all staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to Child Protection concerns);
- Support** (to pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused);
- Working with parents** (to ensure appropriate communications and actions are undertaken).

If a concern falls below the threshold for Level 4 but meets the Level 2 or 3 threshold, an Early Help Assessment will be offered to the family.

All Child Protection or Child in Need cases will be managed by the DSL. EHA cases will be monitored by the DSL but may be managed or led by other members of staff such as the SENCO or a Parent Support Worker.

1.4 This policy applies to all staff, governors and visitors to the school. We recognise that child protection is **everyone's responsibility**. We ensure that all parents and other working partners are aware of our child protection policy by highlighting it in our school prospectus and on our school website, displaying appropriate information in our reception and by raising awareness at meetings with parents. **We always prioritise the best interest of the child and recognise that 'it could happen here'**.

1.5 Extended School Activities

Where the Governing Body provides services or activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection will apply. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the Governing Body will seek assurance in writing that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place to safeguard and protect children and that there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

2 Safeguarding Commitment

2.1 The school adapts an open and accepting attitude towards children as part of its responsibility for pastoral care. All staff encourage children and parents to feel free to talk about any concerns and to see school as a safe place when there are difficulties. Children's fears and concerns will be taken seriously and children are encouraged to seek help from members of staff.

2.2 Our school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are always listened to;
- Ensure that children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty;
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE/Citizenship which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse (including online), and to know to whom they can turn for help;
- Provide opportunities to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies;
- Operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and volunteers who will work with children, including references, Criminal Record and prohibition from teaching checks.

2.3 Safeguarding in the Curriculum

The following areas are among those addressed in PSHE and in the wider curriculum:

- Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Substance abuse
- E-Safety / Internet Safety
- Fire and Water Safety
- Road Safety
- Stranger Awareness
- Protective Behaviours
- Other safeguarding issues as relevant.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 General

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes a responsibility to be alert to possible abuse and to record and report concerns without delay to staff identified with child protection responsibilities within the school.

The names of the Designated Safeguarding Leads for the current year are listed at the start of this document.

3.2 Governing Body

In accordance with the Statutory Guidance “*Keeping Children Safe in Education*” – 2018, the Governing Body will ensure that:

- The school has a child protection/safeguarding policy, procedures and training in place which are effective and comply with the law at all times. The policy is made available publicly;
- The school operates safer recruitment practices, including appropriate use of references and checks on new staff and volunteers. Furthermore, the Headteacher, a nominated Governor and other staff involved in the recruitment process have undertaken appropriate Safer Recruitment training;
- There are clear procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers;

- There is a senior member of the school's leadership team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection (the "Designated Safeguarding Lead") and that there is always cover for this role;
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes local training (in addition to basic child protection training) and this is refreshed (at least) every two years;
- The Headteacher, and all other staff and volunteers who work with children, undertake appropriate training which is regularly updated (in compliance with the NSCB Learning and Development Strategy) and that new staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities. The Local Authority pocket guide, "Making Children Safer", the "Keeping Children Safe in Education - 2018 – Information for all School and College Staff" and the "Staff Code of Conduct" will be used as part of this induction. The Headteacher gives all staff annual Safeguarding training with regular updates as necessary.
- Any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to the attention of the Governing Body will be rectified without delay;
- The Chair of Governors (or, in the absence of a Chair, the Vice Chair) deals with any allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher, in liaison with the Designated Officer formerly (LADO);
- Effective policies and procedures are in place and updated as appropriate including a "code of conduct" for staff, governors and volunteers. Information is provided to the Local Authority (on behalf of the NSCB) through the Annual Section 11 Safeguarding Return; for schools this responsibilities is covered in the Education Act 2002
- There is an individual member of the Governing Body who will champion issues to do with safeguarding children and child protection within the school, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and provide information and reports to the Governing Body;
- The school contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance "*Working Together to Safeguard Children*" 2016 and *Northamptonshire County Council's "Thresholds and Pathways Document"* including providing a co-ordinated offer of early help for children who require this through the Early Help Assessment process. Safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority and the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

3.3 Headteacher

The Headteacher of the school will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are effectively implemented, and followed by all staff;
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Safeguarding Lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children;

- Allegations of abuse or concerns that a member of staff or adult working at school may pose a risk of harm to a child or young person are notified to the Designated Officer (formerly LADO);
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively, confidentially and effectively in a timely manner;
- All staff are made aware that they have an individual responsibility to pass on safeguarding concerns and that if all else fails to report these directly to Children's Social Care Services or the Police.

3.4 Designated Safeguarding Lead (currently also the Headteacher)

The responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are found in *Annex B of "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2018* and include:

- Provision of information to the LSCB/Local Authority on safeguarding and child protection;
- Liaison with the Governing Body and the Local Authority on any deficiencies brought to the attention of the Governing Body and how these should be rectified without delay;
- Referral of cases of suspected abuse to Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (and/or Police where a crime may have been committed);
- Acting as a source of support, advice and expertise within the school;
- Attending and contributing to child protection conferences when required;
- Ensuring each member of staff has access to and understands the school's child protection policy especially new or part-time staff and lunch time staff who may work with different educational establishments;
- Ensuring all staff have induction training covering child protection and are able to recognise and report any concerns immediately they arise. Ensure all staff are given the guidance - the Local Authority pocket guide, "Making Children Safer", the "Keeping Children Safe in Education" - 2018 – Information for all School and College Staff" and the "Staff Code of Conduct";
- Keeping detailed, accurate and secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- Obtaining access to resources and training for all staff and attend refresher training courses every two years;
- Where children leave the school, ensuring that their child protection file is handed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead of the receiving school/setting and signed for in the new school/college as soon as possible. A receipt should be obtained
- Maintaining and monitoring child protection records, including monitoring and acting upon individual concerns, patterns of concerns or complaints, in accordance with section on "Records and Monitoring" below.

4 Records, Monitoring and Transfer

- 4.1 Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. All staff are clear about the need to record and report concerns about a child or children within the school. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for such records and for deciding at what point these records should be shared with other agencies.
- 4.2 Records relating to actual or alleged abuse or neglect are stored separately and securely from normal pupil or staff records. Normal records have markers to show that there is sensitive material stored elsewhere. This is to protect individuals from accidental access to sensitive material by those who do not need to know.
- 4.3 Child protection records are stored securely, with access confined to specific staff, e.g. the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies.
- 4.4 Child protection records are reviewed regularly to check whether any action or updating is needed. This includes monitoring patterns of complaints or concerns about any individuals and ensuring these are acted upon.

When children transfer school copies of all their child protection records are also transferred. Safeguarding records will be transferred separately from other records and best practice is to pass these directly to a Designated Safeguarding Lead in the receiving school *or educational establishment* with any necessary discussion or explanation and to obtain a signed and dated record of the transfer. In the event of a child moving out of area and a physical handover not being possible then the most secure method possible should be found to send copies of the confidential records to a named Designated Safeguarding Lead by registered post with a receipt request. This is in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.

5 Support for Pupils and School staff

- 5.1 Support for pupils
Our school recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and view the world in a positive way. For such children school may be one of the few stable, secure and predictable aspects of their lives. Other children may be vulnerable because, for instance, they have a disability, are in care, or are experiencing some form of neglect. We will actively seek to provide such children with the necessary support and to build their self-esteem and confidence.
- 5.2 This school recognises that children sometimes display abusive behaviour and that such incidents must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.
- 5.3 Complaints or concerns raised by pupils will be taken seriously and followed up in accordance with the school's complaints process.

5.4 Support for Staff

As part of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people staff may hear information, either from the child/young person as part of a disclosure or from another adult that will be upsetting. Where a member of staff is distressed as a result of dealing with a child protection concern, he/she should in the first instance speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about the support he/she requires. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should seek to arrange the necessary support.

6 Working with Parents/Carers

The school will:

- Ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus and on the school website;
- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of CYPS Specialist Services (Children's Social Care) or another agency, unless to do so would place the child at risk of harm or compromise an investigation.

7 Other Relevant Policies

7.1 The Governing Body's statutory responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of children goes beyond simply child protection. The duty is to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activity and functions. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other policies, for instance:

- Behaviour Management
- Attendance
- Racist Incidents
- Anti-Bullying (including Cyberbullying)
- Physical Interventions/Restraint (DfE Guidance - "Use of Reasonable Force" and "Screening, Searching and Confiscation")
- Special Educational Needs
- Trips and Visits
- Work Experience and Extended Work Placements
- First Aid and the Administration of Medicines
- Health and Safety
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Site Security
- Equal Opportunities
- Toileting/Intimate care
- E-safety
- Extended school activities

The above list is not exhaustive but when undertaking development or planning of any kind the school needs to consider the implications for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

8 Recruitment and Selection of Staff

- 8.1 The school's safer recruitment processes are based on the Statutory Guidance: *"Keeping Children Safe in Education" - 2018.*
- 8.2 The school has an open safeguarding ethos regularly addressing safeguarding responsibilities during staff meetings and fostering an ongoing culture of vigilance. All new staff and volunteers receive a safeguarding induction and are briefed on the code of conduct for adults working with children this will include staff relationships with pupils and abuse of trust. The Northamptonshire County Council Local Authority pocket guide, "Making Children Safer". – Information for all school and college staff" and the "Staff Code of Conduct" are given to all staff and are the basis for the safeguarding induction.
- 8.3 On every interview panel for school staff at least one member (teacher/manager or governor) will have undertaken safer recruitment training either online on the DfE website or by attending other another appropriate local or national accredited training course.

9 Information Sharing

- 9.1 Our school recognises the importance of Information sharing and follows statutory guidance as set out in 'Information Sharing' – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers – March 2015

10 Staff Relationships with Pupils

As already described all staff will be made aware of their position of trust and we will adhere to regulations relating to the sexual offences act 2003. This trust extends to use of social media

11 Communications on Social Media

We will comply with the Home Office and DfE guidance on use of social media and online activity by extremists to radicalise and recruit young people July 2015 We will take advice and use existing LSCB safeguarding and child protection procedures to refer if we have a concern We will make use of the national helpline 0207 3407264

12 Children Missing from Education

- 12.1 The school recognises the importance that all children are entitled to full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.
- 12.2 The school recognises a child missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect.
- 12.3 The school will follow the details set out in the NSCB procedure 'Children Missing Education' to report and respond to incidences of children missing from school .We will also comply with the guidance in keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.

- 12.4 We also ensure that additional risks are considered to those missing from education including those who may be potential victims of sexual exploitation, FGM, Forced Marriage or have potential safeguarding concerns due to travelling to conflict zones.

13 Child Sexual Exploitation

The school is committed to ensuring that all incidences of potential child sexual exploitation are reported and acted upon. The school follows the guidance and procedure set out in the NSCB CSE Toolkit.

<http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/schools/cse-professionals/tackling-cse-toolkit-schools/>

14 Female Genital Mutilation

- 14.1 If staff have concerns they activate NSCB local procedures on responding and reporting FGM as found in the NSCB procedures manual.
- 14.2 Where a teacher discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is aged under 18, there is a statutory duty upon that individual to report it to the police. This failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. Further information can be found in Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015)

15 Preventing Radicalisation

- 15.1 Preventing Radicalisation is seen as part of the schools' wider safeguarding duties. The school supports the notion that it is possible to intervene and prevent vulnerable people becoming radicalised.
- 15.2 Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral.
- 15.3 The school accepts its duty under the *Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales* which places requirements on the school under four themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.

Useful Links

Local

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB):

- Telephone: 01604 364036
- Email: nscb@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Northampton Safeguarding Children Board
c/o Northamptonshire County Council
County Hall
Northampton
NN1 1ED

“Making Children Safer” – A Pocket Guide download at: <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/mcs>

Thresholds and Pathways document: <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/children/protecting-children/Pages/northamptonshire-thresholds-and-pathways.aspx>

Early Help – Request for Services

Early Help Co-ordinator <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/earlyhelp>

Multi-agency referral form download at: http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/client_supplied/LSCBNForm_May2014_2003version.doc

e-mail multi-agency form to:

MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Online Referral Form:

<http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/more/borough-and-district-councils/how-to-make-an-online-referral/>

Directory of services for Early Help <http://families.northamptonshire.gov.uk/directory-search>

Directory of services for children with disabilities

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/children/disabled-children/pages/default.aspx>

National

National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children

(NSPCC): <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
0808 800 5000

Childline: <http://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>
0800 1111

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection
(CEOP):** <http://ceop.police.uk/>
0870 000 3344

APPENDIX I **DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE** *(from 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2018)*

Types of abuse and neglect

All school staff are 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.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

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

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the

ill-treatment of another, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

All staff are made aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to, bullying (including cyberbullying), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting.

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

Specific safeguarding issues

All staff have been trained and have an awareness of safeguarding issues, some of which are listed below.

- children missing education
- children missing from home or care
- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- domestic violence in the home
- drugs
- fabricated or induced illness
- faith abuse
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- mental health concerns in the home
- private fostering
- preventing radicalisation

Staff are aware of the behaviours that can put children in danger and of the signs of which to be aware.

All staff and adults who have contact with the school are encouraged to report any concerns which they have even if they are unsure that the concern meets the intervention threshold. The school actively encourages reporting as individual concerns can build a picture which may place a concern over that threshold.

APPENDIX 2

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IN CASES OF POSSIBLE, ALLEGED OR SUSPECTED ABUSE, OR SERIOUS CAUSE FOR CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

Contents

A	General	
B	Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults - main procedural steps	
C	Designated Safeguarding Lead – main procedural steps	

A. General

- 1) The Local Safeguarding Children Board for Northamptonshire Procedures contains the inter-agency processes, protocols and expectations for safeguarding children. (Available on NSCB website www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk). The Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to be familiar with these, particularly the referral processes and with NCC “Thresholds and Pathways”.
- 2) It is important that all parties act swiftly and avoid delays.
- 3) Any person may seek advice and guidance from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub particularly if there is doubt about how to proceed (see contacts at the start of this policy document). Any adult, whatever their role, can take action in his/her own right to ensure that an allegation or concern is investigated and can report to the investigating agencies.
- 4) Written records, dated and signed, must be made to what has been alleged, noticed and reported, and kept securely and confidentially.
- 5) In many cases of concern there will be an expectation that there have already been positive steps taken to work with parents and relevant parties to help alleviate the concerns and effect an improvement for the child. This is appropriate where it is thought a child may be in need in some way, and require assessment to see whether additional support and services are required. An example might be where it is suspected a child may be the subject of neglect. In most cases the parents’ knowledge and consent to the referral are expected, unless there is reason for this not being in the child’s interest. However, there will be circumstances when informing the parent/carer of a referral that might put the child at risk, and in individual cases advice from Children’s Social Care will need to be taken.

B. Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults – main procedural steps

- 1) When a child makes a disclosure, or when concerns are received from other sources, do not investigate, ask leading questions, examine children, or promise confidentiality. Children making disclosures should be reassured and if possible at this stage should be informed what action will be taken next.

- 2) As soon as possible write a dated, timed and signed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done and report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school.
- 3) If the concern involves the conduct of a member of staff or volunteer, a visitor, a governor, a trainee or another young person or child, the Headteacher must be informed. The Headteacher will contact the Designated Officer formerly LADO to seek advice.
- 4) If the allegation is about the Headteacher, the information should normally be passed to the Chair of Governors or the Designated Officer (formerly LADO). See contacts on Pages 3 and 4 of this policy.
- 5) If this has not already been done, inform the child (or other party who has raised the concern) what action you have taken.

C. Designated Safeguarding Lead – Main Procedural Steps

- 1) Begin a case file for pupils where there are concerns, with an overview chronology, which will hold a record of communications and actions. This must be stored securely (see Section on Records and Monitoring).
- 2) Where initial enquiries do not justify a referral to the investigating agencies inform the initiating adult and monitor the situation. If in doubt, seek advice from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0300 126 1000.
- 3) Share information confidentially with those who need to know.
- 4) Where there is a child protection concern requiring immediate, same day, intervention from Children's Social Care (Priority 1), the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub should be contacted immediately by phone. Written confirmation should follow within 24 hours on the NSCB Agency Referral Form. All other referrals should be made firstly through a telephone conversation with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and then by following up with the online form, where requested to do so. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is available for advice on the advice line number given in the contact details on page 3 of this document.
- 5) If it appears that urgent medical attention is required arrange for the child to be taken to hospital (normally this means calling an ambulance) accompanied by a member of staff who must inform medical staff that non-accidental injury is suspected. Parents must be informed that the child has been taken to hospital.
- 6) Exceptional circumstances: If it is feared that the child might be at immediate risk on leaving school, take advice from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (for instance about difficulties if the school day has ended, or on whether to contact the police). Remain with the child until the Social Worker or Police take responsibility. If in these circumstances a parent arrives to collect the child, the member of staff has no right to withhold the child, unless there are current legal restrictions in force (e.g. a restraining order). If there are clear signs of physical risk or threat, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub should be updated and the Police should be contacted immediately.

APPENDIX 3

PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF (INCLUDING HEADTEACHERS) AND VOLUNTEERS (References to staff in this process include staff in schools, central References to staff includes staff in schools central services and volunteers).

These procedures should be followed in all cases in which there is an allegation or suspicion that a person working with children 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 if they work regularly or closely with children.

Relevant documents:

- DfE “*Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges*” - 2018
- NSCB Procedures manual Section 5
 - o 5.1, Selection and Supervision of Staff
 - o 5.2 Managing Allegations Against Adults who work with Children

A. Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults who receive the allegation:

- 1) Write a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.
- 2) Report immediately to the Headteacher.
- 3) Pass on the written record.
- 4) If the allegation concerns the conduct of the Headteacher, report immediately to the Chair of Governors. Pass on the written record. (If there is difficulty reporting to the Chair of Governors, contact the Designated Officer formerly LADO as soon as possible or if unavailable contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on the same day.)

B. Headteacher

- 1) If there is no written record, write a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.
- 2) Before taking further action notify and seek advice from the Designated Officer Formerly LADO, or if unavailable the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on the same day.
- 3) You may be asked to clarify details or the circumstances of the allegation, but this must not amount to an investigation.

- 4) Report to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub if the Designated Officer Formerly LADO, so advises or if circumstances require a referral.
- 5) Ongoing involvement in cases:
 - Liaison with the Designated Officer formerly LADO
 - Co-operation with the investigating agency's enquiries as appropriate.
 - Consideration of employment issues and possible disciplinary action where the investigating agencies take no further action.

C. Chair of Governors (only relevant in the case of an allegation against the Headteacher)

- 1) If there is no written record, write a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.
- 2) Notify the Designated Officer formerly LADO, or if unavailable the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on the same day.
- 3) You may be asked to clarify details or the circumstances of the allegation, but this must not amount to an investigation.
- 4) Report to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub if the Designated Officer formerly LADO so advises or if circumstances require a referral.
- 5) Ongoing involvement in cases:
 - Liaison with the Designated Officer formerly LADO
 - Co-operation with the investigating agency's enquiries as appropriate.
 - Consideration of employment issues and possible disciplinary action where the investigating agencies take no further action.