EMAT
EASTERN MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Group Policy Document

Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Summary
This model policy was revised in July 2026 to reflect the changes in national guidance as a consequence of the publication of revisions to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' on 7th July 2026 which will become statutory on 1 September 2026.

The policy is designed to provide a framework and Annex A should be adapted to make it relevant to each of our settings.

If you are unsure about the validity of the content of this policy, please refer to the Policy Owner.

Please Note: This policy is applicable to All settings within the Trust.

Policy owner	**Board**
Policy holder	**Paul Shanks, CEO**
Author	**Mark Cresswell, School Improvement Director**
Policy Inventory ID Number	**E10**
Group Policy Area	**Education Policies**

Approved by

Consultation Group	**Board**
Approval Committee	**Board**
Implementation date	**September 2026**
Review Date	**July 2027**

Summary of changes – July 2026:

The model policy has been revised to reflect these changes to the statutory guidance as outlined below.

<table>
<tr><th>Section</th><th>Changes</th></tr>
<tr><td>Throughout</td><td>All references to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2025) have been removed and replaced with reference to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Throughout</td><td>All references to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2025) have been removed and replaced with reference to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Throughout</td><td>All references to 'Working Together to Improve Academy Attendance' (2024) have been removed and replaced with reference to 'Working Together to Improve Academy Attendance' (2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Throughout</td><td>Removal of references to previous Annexes that have been removed or changed.
<table>
<tr><th>Annex</th><th>2025</th><th>2026</th></tr>
<tr><td>A</td><td>Condensed version of Part one.</td><td>Further Information</td></tr>
<tr><td>B</td><td>Further information</td><td>Role of the DSL</td></tr>
<tr><td>C</td><td>Role of the DSL</td><td>Summary of changes KCSiE 2026.</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>Host families: homestay during exchange visits</td><td>Removed as a separate annex and guidance in paragraphs 408-410 of KCSiE 2026.</td></tr>
<tr><td>E</td><td>Regulated activity</td><td>Removed as a separate annex and guidance in paragraphs 381-387 of KCSiE 2026.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>2.5</td><td>Addition of exploitation, serious violence and modern slavery.</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.8</td><td>Addition of further indicators that a child may benefit from a coordinated offer of early help.</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.9</td><td>Addition of reference to Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 – 'data protection laws'.</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.3</td><td>Addition of governors' responsibilities to ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring arrangements are in place and annually reviewed by SLT member responsible for filtering and monitoring. Further addition of governors' responsibilities to ensure cyber security systems are in place.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.1</td><td>Removed reference to Annex A from 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2025)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Section 6</td><td>Paragraph numbering amended throughout this section due to previous duplication of information regarding children with SEND.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.1</td><td>Addition of serious violence into considerations of extra-familial harm.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.2</td><td>Addition of further factors to consider in relation to children with SEND.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.10</td><td>Removal of link to Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.11</td><td>New paragraph relating to serious violence.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.12</td><td>Addition of suspected serious violence for referral to Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS).</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.13</td><td>Updated link for multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.17</td><td>Updated title of section to child-on-child abuse (including harassment and violence).</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.17</td><td>Addition of indicators of child-on-child abuse.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.17</td><td>Removed reference to sexting and youth produced sexual imagery.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.24</td><td>Removal of reference to Norfolk Harbour Centre help line being available 24/7. The helpline is now available Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.28</td><td>Addition into mental health section, that in some cases, mental health concerns can develop into safeguarding concerns.</td></tr>
</table>

6.38	Change to language in line with Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2026).
7.4	Addition of inclusion of a summary with safeguarding file transfer.
7.8	Addition of seeking clarification with previous setting if there are gaps in the safeguarding record.
12.2	Addition of trainee teachers.
12.7	Addition of trainee teachers.
12.12	Addition of trainee teachers.
13.1	Addition of link to current guidance Out-of-academy settings: safeguarding guidance for providers.
15.	Updates to statutory framework section to reflect current guidance.
Appendix 3	Addition of updated Children's Advice and Duty Service flowchart process.

WHOLE ACADEMY POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING INCORPORATING CHILD PROTECTION

Eastern Multi-Academy Trust

Policy Consultation & Review
This policy is available on our Trust website and is available on request from each individual academy office. We also inform parents and carers about this policy when their children join our academy and through our academy newsletter.

We recognise the expertise our staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns on a daily basis and we therefore invite staff to contribute to and shape this policy and associated safeguarding arrangements.

The policy is provided to all staff at induction alongside our Staff Code of Conduct, behaviour policy and the safeguarding response to those pupils who are absent from education. In addition, all staff are provided with Part One of the statutory guidance *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*, DfE (2026).

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Trust Board on an annual basis, and will be agreed by each individual Academy Committee at their first meeting. This policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Board on 01/09/26. It is due for review on 01/09/27

Signature	*Paul Shanks*	CEO	Date: 01.09.26
Signature	*Andrew Gedge*	Safeguarding Trustee	Date: 01.09.26

Nelson Academy

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4 Advice for academies, colleges and alternative education providers where there are concerns about an adult who works within the setting

Definitions:

- "Board" means the EMAT Board of Trustees.
- "Academy Committee" means the local governance committee for an individual academy.

Commented [AG1]: I would add this in as there is inconsistency in the document which may not be fully understood

Commented [MC2R1]: Agree

1. PURPOSE & AIMS

1.1 The purpose of Eastern Multi-Academy Trust [EMAT] safeguarding policy is to ensure every child who is a registered pupil in our academies is safe and protected from harm. This means we will always work to:

- Provide help and support to meet the needs of children and young people as soon as problems emerge.
- Protect children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online.
- Prevent impairment of our children's and young people's mental and physical health or development.
- Ensure that children and young people in our academies grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Undertake that role to enable children and young people at our academy to have the best outcomes.

1.2 This policy will give clear direction to all staff including supply staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expected behaviour and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in our academies.

1.3 Our academies fully recognise the contribution they can make to protect children from harm and supporting and promoting the welfare of all children who are registered pupils in our Trust. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support.

1.4 We recognise that our safeguarding responsibilities are clearly linked to our responsibilities for ensuring that appropriate safeguarding responses are in place for children who are absent from academy or who go missing from education, particularly for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions. The Attendance Leads in each academy will regularly liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Leads to discuss all persistently absent pupils and those who go missing to identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to ensure that appropriate safeguarding responses have been put in place to reduce the risk of future harm.

1.5 This policy applies to all pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors.

2. OUR ETHOS

2.1 The child's welfare is of paramount importance. Our academies will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children at our academies will be able to talk freely to any member of staff in our Trust if they are worried or concerned about something. All staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. Victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.

2.2 Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. We recognise that staff at our academies play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. **All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' where safeguarding is concerned.** When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members must always act in the **best interests** of the child.

2.3 Within EMAT, we ensure that safeguarding and child protection is at the forefront and underpins all relevant aspects of process and policy development. We operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

2.4 Where there is a safeguarding concern, the child's wishes and feelings are considered when determining what action to take and what services to provide. The systems we have in place are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.

2.5 All staff and regular visitors will, through training and induction, know how to recognise indicators of concern, how to respond to a disclosure from a child and how to record and report this information. We will not make promises to any child, and we will not keep secrets. Every child will know what the adult will have to do with any information they have chosen to disclose. All staff will be trained to recognise that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, neglected, at risk of exploitation, serious violence or modern slavery, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.

2.6 Throughout our broad and balanced curriculum, we will provide activities and opportunities for children to develop the knowledge, values and skills they need to identify risks, including knowing when and how to ask for help for themselves and others to stay safe (this includes online). The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (delivered in regularly timetabled lessons and reinforced throughout the whole curriculum) will cover relevant topics in an age and stage appropriate way, enabling pupils to learn about their rights and responsibilities to behave and stay safe in a variety of contexts on and offline. This will provide further reinforcement to help children identify risks, know when to seek support and develop the skills to ask for help from trustworthy, reliable sources. We achieve this by:

Please see individual academy websites for details about how safeguarding is supported through each academy's curriculum content – particularly those pages containing PSHE, RSE and E-Safety details. Please also note the individual Safeguarding pages where further information can be gathered.

Further information can be found in the DfE guidance 'Teaching online safety in academy' and 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education' This education is underpinned by the academy's behaviour policy and pastoral support system.

2.7 At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026) and the Norfolk Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership arrangements for our Norfolk schools and Suffolk Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership should be used for our Suffolk based schools; or by using the Cambridgeshire Integrated front Door to make a referral at https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families for schools where pupils live across the border in Cambridgeshire.

2.8 As part of our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, we will provide a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified. These may include if a child:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory
- Education, Health and Care plan)
- has a mental health need
- is a young carer
- is pregnant and/or is a parent themselves
- has exhibited early signs of abusive, violent and/or harmful behaviours
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour,
- including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines
- is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care
- has been repeatedly removed from the classroom, experienced multiple suspensions, is on a part-time timetable, is at risk of being permanently
- excluded from academies, schools, colleges and in Alternative Provision or a Pupil Referral Unit
- is at risk of exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking, including criminal or sexual exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised into terrorism
- has a parent or carer in custody, or is affected by parental offending
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves
- is at risk of honour or faith-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage, and
- is a privately fostered child.

2.9 Within EMAT we understand the importance of working in a way that adheres to the following legislation:

- The Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Data Protection Act 2018, UK GDPR and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 – 'data protection laws'

This means we do not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics).

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Name	Contact details
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	**Mark Cresswell**	**mark.cresswell@eastern-mat.co.uk**
Mental Health Lead	**Deborah Rapkins**	**deborah.rapkins@eastern-mat.co.uk**
Deputy DSL	**Imran Khan**	**imran.khan@eastern-mat.co.uk**
CEO	**Paul Shanks**	**paul.shanks@eastern-mat.co.uk**

Named Safeguarding Trustee	**Andrew Gedge**	**andrew.gedge@eastern-mat.co.uk**
Chair of Governors / Trustees	**Graham Pearson**	**graham.pearson@eastern-mat.co.uk**

Everyone's Safeguarding Responsibility

3.1 It is the responsibility of *every* member of staff, volunteer and regular visitors to our academy to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the pupils at this academy. This includes the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

Commented [AG3]: I'd consolidate Section 3 into:
3.1 Everyone's safeguarding responsibility
3.2 Trust Board
3.3 CEO
3.4 Trust Safeguarding Lead
3.5 Academy Committee
3.6 Principal
3.7 DSL/DDSL
3.8 Named Safeguarding Trustee/Governor
3.9 Annual assurance and audit

Commented [MC4R3]: Agree

The Board of Trustees

3.2 The Board of Trustees of EMAT is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. Although our Board takes collective responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, we also have a named Trustee who champions safeguarding within the academy.

3.3 The Board of EMAT will ensure that:

- The safeguarding policy is in place, is reviewed annually, is available publicly via our academy website and has been written in line with Local Authority guidance and the requirements of the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Children Partnership policies and procedures.
- The Trust, through individual academies contribute to inter-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026)
- A senior member of staff from leadership team is designated to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and that there is at least one deputy DSL(s) who is appropriately trained member to deal with any issues in the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). There will always be cover for this role. The role will be evidenced explicitly in the role holder's job description.
- All staff receive a safeguarding induction and are provided with a copy of this policy, the Trust Staff Code of Conduct, the behaviour policy and the academy's safeguarding response for those pupils who are absent from education as detailed in section 6 of this policy.
- All staff undertake appropriate child protection training that is updated annually and online safety training.
- In terms of filtering and monitoring there is consideration to the number of and age range of children, those who are potentially at greater risk of harm and how often they access the IT system along with the proportionality of costs versus safeguarding risks.
- Ensure that appropriate cyber security systems are in place.
- Procedures are in place for dealing with allegations against members of staff and volunteers in line with statutory guidance.
- Safer recruitment practices are followed in accordance with the requirements of *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'* DfE (2026);
- They remedy without delay any weakness in our safeguarding arrangements that are brought to their attention.

3.4 Each individual Academy Committee will receive a safeguarding report at each meeting that will record the training that has taken place, the number of staff attending and any outstanding training requirements for the academy. It will also record all safeguarding activity that has taken place, for example, meetings attended, reports written, training or induction given. It will not identify individual pupils. The Academy Committee of each

individual Academy is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. Although our Trust Board takes collective responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, we also have a named governor who champions safeguarding within each academy.

The Principal

3.5 Within each EMAT Academy, the Principal is responsible for:

- Identifying a senior member of staff from leadership team to be the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Identifying alternate members of staff to act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in his/her absence to ensure there is always cover for the role.
- Ensuring that the policies and procedures adopted by the Trust Board, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation, are followed by all staff.
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and such concerns are addressed sensitively in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing procedures.
- Liaise with the LADO in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Will ensure that suitable arrangements for any alternative provision are in place.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

3.6 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is a senior member of staff, from the leadership team who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within our academy. The DSL will carry out their role in accordance with the responsibilities outlined in Annex B of *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*.

3.7 The DSL will provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. Any concern for a child's safety or welfare will be recorded in writing and given to the DSL.

3.8 During term time the designated safeguarding lead and or a deputy will always be available (during academy or college hours) for staff in the academy or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. If in *exceptional* circumstances, a DSL is not available on the academy site in person, we will ensure that they are available via telephone and/or any other relevant media.

3.9 The DSL at each Academy will represent our setting at child protection conferences and core group meetings. Through appropriate training, knowledge and experience our DSL will liaise with Children's Services and other agencies where necessary, and make referrals of suspected abuse to Children's Services, take part in strategy discussions and other interagency meetings and contribute to the assessment of children.

3.10 The DSL will maintain records and child protection files ensuring that they are kept confidential and stored securely (see section 7 for more information.)

3.11 The DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedure they need to follow. They will ensure that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors have received appropriate child protection information during induction

and have been trained within the academy to the agreed academy's safeguarding training package provided by Children's Services.

3.12 The DSL will obtain details of the Local Authority Personal Advisor appointed to guide and support a child who is a care leaver.

3.13 The DSL(s) will work with the Principal and senior leaders, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children's attendance, engagement and achievement.

3.14 This will include understanding their academic progress and attainment and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort and supporting teaching staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had a social worker reach their potential.

3.15 We recognise that a child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour, and mental health. The DSL will use the information that they hold about children with a social worker to make decisions in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and help promote educational outcomes. The DSL will ensure that staff, know who these children are, understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort; supporting teaching staff to identify the challenges that children in this group might face and the additional academic support and adjustments that they could make to best support these children.

3.16 The DSL and/or Principal will take the lead responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place at the academy.

3.17 **Safeguarding Governance and Responsibilities**
Safeguarding has the highest priority across the Trust. The Board of Trustees ensures safeguarding is monitored rigorously and effectively at both trust and academy level, in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)*. Robust systems of monitoring, reporting, and assurance are in place so that governors and trustees can be confident that safeguarding is effective in every academy.

3.18 **Trust Board (Ultimate Accountability)**
The Board of Trustees holds ultimate responsibility for safeguarding and ensures assurance is gained through:

- Receiving **regular safeguarding reports** from the Trust Safeguarding Lead, including where applicable, data, audits, and trend analysis. Reviewing **annual safeguarding audits**, commissioned by the Trust and conducted by the Trust Safeguarding Lead (with external validation where appropriate). NB: Norfolk and Suffolk undertake separate Safeguarding Audits on a rolling programme basis. Ensuring safeguarding is tabled within the **Forward Agenda Planning** at Board meetings, with opportunities to challenge and probe reports. Receiving **feedback from academy committees** via Chairs of Governors and safeguarding link governors through Chairs' Forum and Academy Committee Reporting. Holding the Chief Executive to account for ensuring safeguarding culture, compliance, and improvement across the Trust.

Assurance: The Board seeks assurance not just from reports, but from the challenge and triangulation provided by **audits, external reviews, and local governor scrutiny**.

3.19 **Chief Executive (Oversight, delegated to Trust Safeguarding Lead)**
The Chief Executive ensures safeguarding is strategically led and embedded by:

- Delegating day-to-day monitoring to the Trust Safeguarding Lead. Ensuring safeguarding is **regularly reported** to the Board with transparent information.
- Making certain that findings from **audits and governor reports** are addressed and resourced.
- Maintaining responsibility for ensuring safeguarding risks are identified, escalated, and mitigated.

3.20 **Trust Safeguarding Lead (Reporting Person to the Board)**
The Trust Safeguarding Lead is the **named reporting officer** to the Board and is expected to:

- Produce regular **safeguarding reports** for the Board, evidencing compliance, trends, and impact.
- Conduct the **annual safeguarding audits** across all academies, reporting findings and recommendations to both academy committees and the Board.
- Provide **support and training** to DSLs and governors but also bring **challenge** to ensure improvement.
- Facilitate a **safeguarding network** across the Trust to share best practice and drive consistency.
- Writing the termly Trust Safeguarding Newsletters to keep all staff abreast of updates and relevant changes.
- Be directly available to the Named Trustee for Safeguarding for further scrutiny and assurance.

Expectation: The Trust Safeguarding Lead is not only supportive but also a **critical friend** who brings independent challenge, ensuring the Board receives an honest assessment of safeguarding practice.

3.21 **Academy Committees (Local Governance)**
Academy Committees play a crucial role in **scrutinising safeguarding on the ground**. Their responsibilities include:

- Receiving **termly safeguarding reports** from the Principal and DSL, and asking probing questions about data, trends, and actions taken.
- Monitoring the **implementation and impact** of the safeguarding policy within their academy.
- Ensuring that **local challenges** (attendance, behaviour, exclusions, referrals) are understood and addressed.

- Providing feedback to the Trust through **committee minutes and reports** to the Board.
- Participate in **Safeguarding Audits** alongside the Trust Safeguarding Lead.
- Ensuring the **link safeguarding governor** meets regularly with the DSL, undertakes visits, and reports findings back to the committee.

Expectation: Local governors, particularly the **Chair** and **link safeguarding governor**, are expected to not only understand safeguarding but to **bring challenge, triangulate evidence, and escalate concerns** to the Trust if necessary.

3.22 **Named Trustee for Safeguarding**
The Named Trustee provides additional focus by:

- Acting as the **Board's safeguarding champion** and link to the Trust Safeguarding Lead.
- Reviewing reports, audits, and local governor feedback to ensure concerns are raised at Board level.
- Meeting termly with the Trust Safeguarding Lead to discuss assurance and risks in more detail.

3.23 **Annual Audit**

- The **Trust Safeguarding Lead** conducts the annual safeguarding audit of every academy.
- ***Where appropriate***, audits may be **externally validated** to strengthen independence.
- Governors and DSLs take part in the audit process, providing evidence and context.
- Audit findings are reported to **academy committees** (for local action) and the **Board of Trustees** (for assurance and challenge).
- The audit cycle ensures the Board receives a **yearly comprehensive review**, alongside any monitoring reports.

3.24 **Summary**
Through **termly reporting, annual audits, and structured local-to-trust feedback loops**, the Trust Board receives robust assurance that safeguarding policies are compliant, procedures are effective, and practice protects children. Local governors and chairs are not only trained but are **expected to challenge, monitor impact, and report upward**, ensuring safeguarding is rigorously scrutinised at every level.

4. TRAINING & INDUCTION
4.1 When new staff join our academy they will be informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place. They will be given a copy of our academy's safeguarding policy along with the staff code of conduct, Part one of '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*' and told who our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSLs are. They will also receive a copy of the behaviour policy and the academy's response to children who are absent from

education – this information is included in section 6 of this policy. All staff are expected to read these key documents. They will also be provided with information about how to record and report safeguarding concerns. They will also be provided with information about how to record and report safeguarding concerns through CPOMS, and they will then be given a log-in and trained in how to use the system and where to go if they are concerned.

4.2 Every new member of staff or volunteer will receive safeguarding training during their induction period within the first few weeks of joining the academy. This programme will include information relating to signs and symptoms of abuse, how to manage a disclosure from a child (including reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe), how to record, the processes for referral to Children's Services and the statutory assessments under Section 17 and Section 47 as well as the remit of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The training will also include information about whistleblowing in respect of concerns about another adult's behaviour and suitability to work with children. Staff will also receive online safety training, including understanding the expectations, applicable roles, and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring as this is part of the overarching safeguarding approach of our academy.

4.3 In addition to the safeguarding induction, we will ensure that mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part one of '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*'. In order to achieve this, we will ensure that:

- all members of staff will undertake appropriate safeguarding training on an annual basis, and we will evaluate the impact of this training.
- all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
- Staff will receive regular updates and training as part of Staff Meetings
- Further safeguarding training and child protection courses, and information are available through the Trust CPD package [EduCare] as well as GovernorHub and the NGA website

4.4 All regular visitors, temporary staff and volunteers to our academy will be given a set of our safeguarding procedures; they will be informed of whom our DSL and alternate staff members are and what the recording and reporting system is. (See Appendix 2). There are also pictures of the Safeguarding Team available in the entrance area. Any appropriate checks will be made and followed up, and a visitors badge will be issued. They will also be made known if there are any fire alarms or evacuation procedures in place for that day. Visitors may also be asked to turn off or hand in their personal mobile phone.

4.5 The DSL, the alternate designated member(s) of staff and any other senior member of staff who may be in a position of making referrals or attending child protection conferences or core groups will attend one of the multi-agency training courses organised by Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Partnership at least once every three years. The DSL and alternate(s) will attend Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training provided by the Local Authority every two years. In addition to formal training, DSLs will ensure that they update their knowledge and skills at regular intervals, but at least annually, to keep up with any developments relevant to their role, by accessing information and courses provided by the local authority; attending termly DSL Network meetings; being part of a supervision process in-house; maintaining a Safeguarding Board for staff; and updating and refreshing staff knowledge at regular staff meetings.

4.6 Our Board of Trustees and Academy Committees will also undertake appropriate training to equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole academy approach to safeguarding. This training takes place at induction and is updated regularly.
Training for Governors to support them in their safeguarding role is available from Norfolk Governor Services or Suffolk Governor Services, or the similar options for Cambridgeshire, where appropriate.

4.7 We actively encourage all our staff to keep up to date with the most recent local and national safeguarding advice and guidance, Annex A of '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*' (2026) provides links to guidance on specific safeguarding issues such as Child Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation. In addition, local guidance can be accessed via Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership and within the Safeguarding Toolkit on the Norfolk Academies and Learning Providers website.

5. PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING CONCERNS

5.1 EMAT adheres to child protection procedures that have been agreed locally through the Norfolk and Suffolk Safeguarding Children Partnership or the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board. Where we identify children and families in need of support, we will carry out our responsibilities in accordance with Norfolk Local Assessment Protocol and the Norfolk Continuum of Need Guidance, or similar support mechanisms in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire – such as the Suffolk Threshold Document and Guidance Matrix

5.2 Every member of staff including volunteers working with children at our academy are advised to maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child and have a responsibility to take action as outlined in this policy.

5.3 All staff are encouraged to report any concerns that they have and not see these as insignificant. On occasions, a referral is justified by a single incident such as an injury or disclosure of abuse. More often however, concerns accumulate over a period of time and are evidenced by building up a picture of harm over time; this is particularly true in cases of emotional abuse and neglect. In these circumstances, it is crucial that staff record and pass on concerns in accordance with this policy immediately to allow the DSL to build up a picture and access support for the child at the earliest opportunity. A reliance on memory without accurate and contemporaneous records of concern could lead to a failure to protect.

5.4 It is *not* the responsibility of academy staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. All staff, however, have a duty to recognise concerns and pass the information on in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.

5.5 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be used as a first point of contact for concerns and queries regarding any safeguarding concern in our academy. Any member of staff or visitor to the academy who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that a child is at risk of harm must report it immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, to the alternate

designated person. In the absence of either of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff.

5.6 All concerns about a child or young person should be reported without delay and recorded in writing using the agreed system in the setting (see Appendix 1 for suggested template). Records should include:
• a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern
• details of how the concern was followed up and resolved
• a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

5.7 Following receipt of any information raising concern, the DSL will consider what action to take which could include completing the Request for Support form or seeking advice from the Norfolk Children's Advice & Duty Service (CADS) as required, MASH for Suffolk pupils, or on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Children's Services website at https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Make_a_professional_referral_to_Cambridgeshire_County_Council_Children_Services . All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented.

5.8 All referrals will be made in line with Norfolk, Suffolk or Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Children's Services [C&PCS] procedures as outlined in Appendix 3.

5.9 If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to Norfolk CADS/MASH or C&PCS immediately. Anybody can make a referral in these circumstances. If the child's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration by raising concerns again with the DSL and/or the Principal. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.

5.10 Staff should always follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy in the first instance. However, they may also share information directly with Norfolk CADS, Suffolk MASH or C&PCS, or the police if:

- the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their alternate and the Principal are all unavailable.
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety.

5.11 Any member of staff who does not feel that concerns about a child have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should raise their concerns with the Principal or the Chair of Governors. If any member of staff does not feel the situation has been addressed appropriately at this point should contact Norfolk CADS, Suffolk MASH or C&PCS directly with their concerns.

6. SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Contextual safeguarding
6.1 Within EMAT we recognise that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of the academy environment and/or can occur between children outside of the academy. This is known as contextual safeguarding. It is key that all academy staff understand the definition of contextual safeguarding and consider whether children are at risk of abuse, exploitation or serious violence in situations outside their families. Through training we will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple

harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious violence. When reporting concerns, staff should include as much information and background detail as possible so the DSL can make a referral with a holistic view of the child. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities or physical health issues

6.2 We recognise that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges, and these are discussed in staff training. These additional vulnerabilities may include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration.
- children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionally impacted by behaviours such as anxiety and withdrawal, without outwardly showing any signs.
- communication barriers
- the need for intimate care. and more likely to be dependent on adults for care.
- cognitive understanding – being unable to understand the difference between fact and fiction in online content and then repeating the content/behaviours in academies or colleges or the consequences of doing so.

Commented [AG5]: Needs to be re-written

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6.3 We work to address these additional challenges and consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place.

6.4 Within each Academy we also recognise that pupils who attend Alternative Provision will often have complex needs and due to this we are aware of the additional risk of harm these children may be vulnerable to.

6.5 Across the Trust we recognise that a **previously looked after child** potentially remains vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together, and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), County Lines and serious violence

6.6 Within EMAT we train staff to recognise that 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. 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.

6.7 Across the Trust we recognise that Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse, and this imbalance of power coerces, manipulates or deceives a child or young person 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. Child sexual exploitation does not always include physical contact; it can also occur through the use of

technology. We understand that some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they may believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

6.8 In each Academy we understand that criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity. Drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs.

6.9 We understand that children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. We will treat these children as victims understanding that they have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to. We recognise the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys and that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.
6.10 All EMAT staff are aware of the indicators and risk factors which may signal a child is vulnerable to or involved with serious violent crime. We make reference to the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement, and the Children's Society Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation guidance for more information.

6.11 Within each Academy serious violence is seen as a continuing safeguarding concern, Staff are trained and alert to the signs a child may be at risk or involved in serious violence. We are aware there are times of the academy day where children may be at higher risk and respond accordingly. Where staff report concerns, the DSL will gather contextual information, provide early support for those considered at risk and dependent on the risk implement a safety and support plan.

6.12 If a child is suspected to be at risk of exploitation, serious violence, or modern slavery, a referral to the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS/MASH/C&PCS) will be made alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of exploitation.

So-called 'honour-based abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)
6.13 Across EMAT we recognise that our staff are well placed to identify concerns and take action to prevent children from becoming victims of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other forms of so-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) and provide guidance on these issues through our safeguarding training. If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of HBA, they should inform the DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multiagency liaison with police and children's social care.

6.14 Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers. Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. We will provide guidance and support to our teachers on this requirement and further information on when

and how to make a report can be found in the following Home Office guidance: Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation- procedural information Home Office (January 2020).

6.15 In each Academy, we recognise that forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. Since February 2023 it has also been a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. The Forced Marriage Unit has statutory guidance and Multi-agency guidelines and can be contacted for advice or more information: Contact 020 7008 0151 or email fmu@fco.gov.uk.

Preventing radicalisation and extremism

6.16 We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. In every EMAT Academy, we will ensure that:

- Through training, staff, volunteers and governors have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is, why we need to be vigilant in academy and how to respond when concerns arise.
- There are systems in place for keeping pupils safe from extremist material when accessing the internet in our academy by using effective filtering and monitoring policies.
- The DSL has received Prevent training and will act as the point of contact within our academy for any concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.
- The DSL will make referrals in accordance with Norfolk Channel Procedures (as well as Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) and will represent our academy at Channel meetings as required.
- Through our curriculum, we will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

Child-on-child abuse" to Child-on-child abuse (including harassment and violence)

6.17 Across EMAT all staff are trained so that they are aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via child-on-child abuse. These forms of harm may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying),
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between children,
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm,
- serious physical assault and harm, or the threat of harm with a weapon,
- sexual violence such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault,
- sexual harassment such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse,
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party,
- consensual and non-consensual making or sharing of nudes and semi nudes,

- upskirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm,
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group).

6.18 We recognise that children are vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse by other children or siblings. Abuse perpetrated by children can be just as harmful as that perpetrated by an adult, so it is important that all staff and volunteers remember the impact on both the victim of the abuse as well as to focus on the support for the child or young person exhibiting the harmful behaviour. We understand that abuse can occur in intimate personal relationships between children; and that consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and or videos[1] is a form of child-on-child abuse.

6.19 We understand that even if there are no reports in our setting it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. We recognise that pupils may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse and can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report, and this may come from a friend or a conversation that is overheard. Such abuse will always be taken as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult and the same safeguarding children procedures will apply in respect of any child who is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Staff must never tolerate or dismiss concerns relating to child-on-child abuse and they will always challenge this. It must never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter', 'just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up'. Doing this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

6.20 In each Academy we regularly review decisions and actions, and relevant policies are updated to reflect any lessons learnt. We look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, we decide upon an appropriate course of action.

6.21 In our academies all staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. Victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor will a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. We will also offer appropriate support to the perpetrator and any other children involved.

6.22 All staff will understand that they should follow our safeguarding procedures for reporting a concern if they are worried about child-on-child abuse. The DSL will respond to any concerns related to child-on-child abuse in line with guidance outlined in Part five of '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*.' We will ensure that all concerns, discussions and decisions reached are clearly recorded and any identified actions are followed up.

6.23 We will work with other agencies including the police and Children's Social Care, as required to respond to concerns about sexual violence and harassment. We will seek consultations where there are concerns or worries about developmentally inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour from the Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Team as required so that we ensure we are offering the right support to the child(ren).

[1] UKCIS guidance: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes advice for education settings

6.24 Support will depend on the circumstances of each case and the needs of the child, it may include completion of risk assessments to support children to remain in academy whilst safeguarding other children and the victim, delivery of early intervention in respect of HSB and/or referral to The Harbour Centre Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) where a pupil discloses a rape, an attempted rape or a serious sexual assault whether this has happened recently or in the past. The assault does not have to have taken place in Norfolk, but the victim must live in Norfolk to access support. The SARC also has a helpline 01603 276381 if pupils or staff need to speak to a Crisis Worker for help & advice. Referral forms can be found on The Harbour Centre website. The DSL will always contact the police in cases of rape and serious sexual assault as per the guidance When to call the Police: a guide for academies and colleges, National Police Chiefs Council.
For Suffolk, victims can access The Ferns [http://theferns-suffolk.org.uk/], and for Cambridgeshire, victims can access the Cambridgeshire Rape Crisis centre [https://cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk/]

Modern Slavery
6.25 Within EMAT we understand that modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs. We refer to the DfE guidance Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims for concerns of this nature. for concerns of this nature.

Safeguarding responses to children who are absent from education
6.26 In all EMAT Academies we adhere to the 'Working Together to Improve Academy Attendance' (2026) guidance. All staff should be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities for children who are absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions, or for prolonged periods, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of them going missing in future.

6.27 We adhere to the following procedures and processes to ensure there is an appropriate safeguarding response to children who are absent from education:

- An attendance register is taken at the start of the first session of each academy day and once during the second session.
- We make every effort to contact parents and carers and follow up with the emergency contacts held.
- We hold at least two emergency contact numbers for each of the pupils on our roll wherever possible.
- Staff will alert DSLs to any concerns raised regarding children who are absent from academy.
- The DSLs will meet regularly with the Attendance Lead, SENCo and other members of the pastoral team to ensure that each response is thorough and takes into account all the relevant information about individual children.
- We will follow the procedures outlined in our attendance policy including undertaking first day calling and monitoring data to ensure we intervene early in cases of poor attendance and/or unexplained absences.
- We understand we remain responsible for the safeguarding of all pupils who are placed in an alternative provision.
- When removing a child from roll at the standard and non-standard transition points, we will inform the Local Authority in accordance with statutory requirements and pass on all safeguarding files.

[Please see individual Academy documents such as the Attendance Policy and Children Absent from Education statements for each academy as part of their Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.]

Mental Health

6.28 Within EMAT all staff are made aware, through training, 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 and that in some cases, mental health concerns can develop into safeguarding concerns. Our staff are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

6.29 We understand that where children have suffered abuse, neglect or exploitation, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Therefore, through training, staff are aware of how children's experiences can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education. All staff are aware that if they have a mental health concern about a child that is *also* a safeguarding concern (which could include self-harm, signs of an eating disorder or contemplating suicide), they should take immediate action by passing the information on to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

6.30 Within each academy, we have a named Mental Health Lead [see individual websites for details]. There are clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems and work with other agencies as required to respond to these concerns. Designated Safeguarding Leads make reference to the 'Mental Health and Behaviour in Academies' DfE guidance for further support.

Online Safety

6.31 Across EMAT all staff are aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. We understand that in many cases abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. We recognise that online safeguarding concerns can include abusive, harassing, misogynistic or misandrist messages, online sexual harassment, and the making or sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, including images that have been digitally altered or generated using artificial intelligence.

6.32 As part of the requirement for staff to undergo regular updated safeguarding training, online safety training is also delivered. We will ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme throughout the curriculum and is reflected in relevant policies, teacher training, the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead and any parental engagement.

6.33 Our Filtering and Monitoring for academies is provided by Turn It On – our current IT support and providers. They are responsible for setting up the initial filtering and monitoring to enable our academies to function safely online with all pupils, whilst not over-restricting usage, so that parts of the curriculum become inaccessible. In addition, the DSL/Principal will oversee the Filtering and Monitoring in each academy and report back regularly to Academy Committee, who in turn will report to the Board. The Board of Trustees will have oversight of Filtering and Monitoring across the Trust. All academies are expected to meet the Digital and Technology Standards in Schools and Colleges. More details can be found in our policies on Online Safety and Mobile and Smart Technology which consider the 4Cs, content,

contact, conduct and commerce and reflect the fact that many children have unlimited and unrestricted access to the internet via mobile phone networks (i.e. 3G, 4G and 5G).

6.34 We recognise that technology, and risks and harms related to the internet evolve and change rapidly. Therefore, we carry out an annual review of our approach to online safety, supported by a risk assessment (on at least an annual basis) that considers and reflects the risks that children face in our setting. We also communicate with parents and carers to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.

Cybercrime

6.35 We understand that cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). We are aware of the Cyber security standards for academies and colleges.GOV.UK and the guidance from the National Education Network.

6.36 If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead will consider a referral to the Cyber Choices programme which aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests. It aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

Domestic Abuse

6.37 In our academies all staff are aware that domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. We understand that children can be victims of domestic abuse. Where they see, hear or experience the effects this can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. We are aware of the Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS) and signpost victims to the service. Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care are available to offer support where threshold for NIDAS support has not been met.

Children with SEND

6.38 Within EMAT we recognise that children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges such as

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration.
- these children being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children.
- the potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionally impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.

6.39 We work to address these additional challenges and consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place.

6.40 Within each Academy we recognise that pupils who attend Alternative Provision will often have complex needs and may be particularly vulnerable to harm. Where an academy

places a pupil with an Alternative Provision provider, the academy remains responsible for safeguarding that pupil and for ensuring that the placement is appropriate to their needs. We will obtain written confirmation that appropriate safeguarding checks have been completed on individuals working at the provision and that the provider will inform us of any changes that may affect safeguarding arrangements. The academy will undertake its own due diligence, maintain records of the location of the provision and any subcontracted or satellite sites attended by the pupil, and review each placement at least half-termly to ensure that the pupil is attending regularly, remains safe and that the placement continues to meet their needs. Any safeguarding concern will result in an immediate review of the placement

Children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning their gender

6.41 The fact that a child or a young person may be lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning their gender is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', we recognise that these children and in some cases children who are perceived by other children to be lesbian, gay or bisexual can be just as vulnerable as children who are. Therefore, we work to reduce any additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for these children to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff. Through our curriculum and behaviour policy, we are clear that bullying and disrespectful language or behaviour is never appropriate.

7. RECORDS AND INFORMATION SHARING

7.1 If staff are concerned about the welfare or safety of any child at our academy, they will record their concern either on the agreed reporting form (Appendix 1) or through the setting's electronic system. Any concerns should be passed to the DSL without delay. CPOMS is used as standard across the Trust, and all staff are expected to use this platform to record concerns. However, visitors to an academy will not have access to the online system, so if requested or needed, they will be issued a paper recording sheet which, when completed, will be handed to the DSL to record on CPOMS.

7.2 Any information recorded will be kept in a separate named file, in a secure cabinet if a paper system is used and not with the child's academic file. These files will be the responsibility of the DSL. Child protection information will only be shared within academy on the basis of 'need to know in the child's interests' and on the understanding that it remains strictly confidential.

7.3 Child protection information will be kept up to date. Each concern logged will include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern.
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved.
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

In every EMAT Academy we will keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of all concerns, discussions and decisions made including the rationale for those decisions. This includes instances where referrals were or were not made to another agency such as the Children's Advice and Duty Service or the Prevent programme. Invitations to child protection conferences, core groups and all other multi-agency meetings and minutes taken at these will be stored on the child's file whether an electronic or paper system is used. All our safeguarding records will include a chronology, contents front cover and will record significant events in the child's life.

7.4 When a child leaves our academy, (including in year transfers) the DSL will contact the DSL at the new academy and will ensure that the child protection file is forwarded to the receiving academy. The DSL will include a clear, structured summary identifying current safeguarding concerns, relevant context and any ongoing support needs. This transfer will be within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. We recognise that not providing information as per the timescales can impact on the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes.

7.5 We will retain evidence to demonstrate how the file has been transferred; this may be in the form of a written confirmation of receipt from the receiving academy and/or evidence of recorded delivery.

7.6 Prior to a child leaving we will consider if it would be appropriate to share any additional information with the new academy or college in advance to help them put in place the right support to safeguard this child.

7.7 Where a parent elects to remove their child from the academy roll to home educate, the academy will make arrangements to pass any safeguarding concerns to the Services to Home Educators Team within Norfolk County Council, or the Elective Home Education Team in Suffolk [ehe@suffolk.gov.uk or on 01473 265139], or in Cambridgeshire [ElectiveHome.Education@cambridgeshire.gov.uk]
7.8 When a child joins any of our academies, we will review any safeguarding information received and contact the previous setting to seek clarification where information is unclear or incomplete.

8. WORKING WITH PARENTS & CARERS
8.1 EMAT is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to support them to understand our statutory responsibilities in this area.

8.2 When new pupils join our Trust, parents and carers will be informed that we have a safeguarding policy. A copy will be provided to parents on request and is available on individual academy websites. Parents and carers will be informed of our legal duty to assist our colleagues in other agencies with child protection enquiries and what happens should we have cause to contact Norfolk Children's Advice & Duty Service or Suffolk MASH or C&PCS

8.3 We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission, or it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard a child from harm.

8.4 We will seek to share with parents any concerns we may have about their child *unless* to do so may place a child at increased risk of harm. A lack of parental engagement or agreement regarding the concerns the academy has about a child will not prevent the DSL making a referral to Norfolk CADS/Suffolk MASH/C&PCS in those circumstances where it is appropriate to do so.

8.5 In order to keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, the academy requires parents to provide accurate and up to date information regarding:

- Full names and contact details of all adults with whom the child normally lives.
- Full names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above).
- Emergency contact details (if different from above).
- Full details of any other adult authorised by the parent to collect the child from academy (if different from the above).
-

The academy will retain this information on the pupil file. The academy will only share information about pupils with adults who have parental responsibility for a pupil or where a parent has given permission, and the academy has been supplied with the adult's full details in writing.

8.6 At EMAT we are working in partnership with Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Constabularies and Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's Children's Services to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic abuse in their household or a missing from home or care episode; this scheme is called Operation Encompass. In order to achieve this, Norfolk, Suffolk and C&P Children's Services staff will share police information of all domestic incidents where one of our pupils has been present or experienced a missing episode with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s). On receipt of any information, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child requires, this could be silent or overt. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the '*Norfolk Operation Encompass Protocol*', as well as the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire equivalents. We will record this information and store this information in accordance with the record keeping procedures outlined in this policy.

9. CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

9.1 Children's Services will convene a Child Protection conference once a child protection enquiry under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 has been undertaken and the child is judged to be at continuing risk of significant harm. A review conference will take place once a child has been made the subject of a Child Protection Plan in order to monitor the safety of the child and the required reduction in risk.

9.2 Staff members may be asked to attend a child protection conference or core group meetings on behalf of the academy in respect of individual children. Usually, the person representing the academy at these meetings will be the Principal or DSL. In any event, the person attending will need to have as much relevant up to date information about the child as possible; any member of staff may be required to contribute to this process.

9.3 All reports for child protection conferences will be prepared in advance using the guidance and template report provided by the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership or Suffolk or Cambridgeshire equivalent. The information contained in the report will be shared with parents before the conference as appropriate and will include information relating to the child's physical, emotional, and intellectual development, the child's presentation at academy and information about academy attendance. To complete such reports, all relevant information will be sought from staff working with the child in academy.

9.4 Clearly child protection conferences can be upsetting for parents. We recognise that we are likely to have more contact with parents than other professionals involved. We will work in an open and honest way with any parent whose child has been referred to Children's Services or whose child is subject to a child protection plan. Our responsibility is to promote

the protection and welfare of all children, and our aim is to achieve this in partnership with our parents.

10. SAFER RECRUITMENT

10.1 We will ensure that the Principal and at least one member of the Senior Leadership Team, as well as a member of the Academy Committee have completed appropriate safer recruitment training. At all times the Principal and EMAT People Advisory Services will ensure that safer recruitment practices are followed in accordance with the requirements of *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*, DfE (2026). At least one person involved in conducting an interview will have received safer recruitment training.

10.2 Within EMAT we will use the recruitment and selection process to deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment, or volunteering opportunities.

10.3 We require details of a candidate's present (or last) employment and reason for leaving; full employment history, (since leaving academy, including education, employment and voluntary work) including reasons for any gaps in employment and evidence of original academic certificates. We do not accept testimonials and insist on taking up references prior to interview which will be made available to Principals prior to interview. We will question the contents of application forms if we are unclear about them, and shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children.

10.4 Within EMAT we use a range of selection techniques to identify the most suitable person for the post. Structured questions are agreed by the interview panel, and any potential areas of concern are explored to determine the applicant's suitability to work with children.

10.5 We will undertake Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and other pre-employment checks as outlined in *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'* to ensure we are recruiting and selecting the most suitable people to work with our children.

10.6 We will maintain a Single Central Record (SCR) of all safer recruitment checks carried out in line with statutory requirements. A senior member of staff, usually the Principal, will check the SCR regularly with a member of the PAS Team to ensure that it meets statutory requirements.

10.7 In EMAT we recognise that safer recruitment is not just about carrying out the right DBS checks and is not limited to recruitment procedures. Therefore, we understand the importance of continuous vigilance, maintaining an environment that deters and prevents abuse and challenges inappropriate behaviour. Further information about all of these processes can be found in our Recruitment and Selection policy.

11. SAFER WORKING PRACTICE

11.1 All adults who come into contact with our children have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our children are competent, confident and safe to do so.

11.2 All staff will be provided with a copy of the Trust Code of Conduct at induction. They will be expected to know our Trust's Code of Conduct and policy for positive handling and carry out their duties in accordance with this advice. There will be occasion when some form of physical contact is inevitable, for example if a child has an accident or is hurt or is in

a situation of danger to themselves or others around them. However, at all times the agreed policy for safe restraint must be adhered to. A list of staff that have accessed Norfolk Steps or other approved and appropriate positive handling training will be kept by the Principal.

11.3 If staff, visitors, volunteers or parent helpers are working with children alone they will, wherever possible, be visible to other members of staff. They will be expected to inform another member of staff of their whereabouts in academy, who they are with and for how long. Doors, ideally, should have a clear glass panel in them and be left open.

11.4 Guidance about acceptable conduct and safe practice will be given to all staff and volunteers during induction. These are sensible steps that every adult should take in their daily professional conduct with children. This advice can be found in 'Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (February 2022). All staff and volunteers are expected to carry out their work in accordance with this guidance and will be made aware that failure to do so could lead to disciplinary action.

12. MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Allegations that may meet the harms threshold

12.1 Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the wellbeing and very best outcomes for the children at our academy. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.

12.2 Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur, they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children. We work to the thresholds for harm as set out in *'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (*2026) and *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*, DfE (2026) below. An allegation may relate to a person who works / volunteers with children who has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child and/or.
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or.
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

The 4th bullet point above recognises circumstances where a member of staff (including supply and trainee teachers) or volunteer is involved in an incident outside of academy/college which did not involve children but could have an impact on their suitability to work with children; this is known as transferrable risk.

12.3 Within EMAT we recognise our responsibility to report / refer allegations or behaviours of concern and / or harm to children by adults in positions of trust who are not employed by the Academy to the LADO service directly at lado@norfolk.gov.uk , lado@suffolk.co.uk or LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk These are adults such as those in the voluntary sector, taxi drivers, escorts, and fosters carers.

12.4 We will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in our academy are safe to work with children. When concerns arise, we will always ensure that the procedures outlined in the local protocol Allegations Against Persons who Work with Children and Part 4 of *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*, DfE (2026) are adhered to and will seek appropriate advice. The first point of contact for academies regarding concerns and/ or allegation issues (including for supply teachers) is via the Local Authority Education Duty Desk on 01603 307797. A Duty Advisor (not a LADO) will give advice and guidance on next steps. If the advice is to make a referral to the LADO service then the LADO referral form should be completed. The completed LADO referral form is then sent via e-mail to: LADO@norfolk.gov.uk. For Suffolk academies, they should use the guidance and forms found at https://www.suffolksp.org.uk/working-withchildren-and-adults/children/local-authority-designated-officers-lado/ and for Cambridgeshire the contact number is 01223 727967 [Out of Hours 0345 0455203] See Appendix 4 for further details.

12.5 If an allegation is made or information is received about *any* adult who works/ volunteer in our setting which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work / volunteer with children, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the Principal immediately. This includes concerns relating to agency and supply staff and volunteers. Should an allegation be made against the Principal, this will be reported to the Chair of the Academy Council. In the event that neither the Principal nor Chair of the AC is not contactable on that day, the information must be passed to and dealt with by either the member of staff acting as Principal or the Vice Chair of the AC.

12.6 The Principal or Chair of the AC will seek advice from the LADO within one working day. No member of staff or the Academy Committee will undertake further investigations before receiving advice from the LADO.

12.7 When using a supply agency, we inform the agency of our process for managing allegations against staff and keep them up to date with any policy developments. Where concerns are raised about an individual (including a trainee teacher) and the Trust is not their employer, we recognise that we still have responsibility to ensure allegations are dealt with properly. In order to achieve this, we will liaise with relevant parties including the LADO to determine a suitable outcome. Whilst the supply agency should be fully involved and co-operate with any enquiries from the LADO, police and/or children's services, we recognise that the academy will usually take the lead in conducting an investigation as we have direct access to any affected children and other academy staff to collect the facts.

12.8 Any member of staff or volunteer who does not feel confident to raise their concerns with the Principal or Chair of the AC should contact the LADO directly via email to lado@norfolk.gov.uk. Or lado@suffolk.gov.uk or LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

12.9 Further information and guidance documents in relation to the LADO process, forms, leaflets and the Allegations against Persons who Work/Volunteer with Children Procedures are found on the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership website and the same information can be found on the equivalent Suffolk and Cambridgeshire sites. Further national guidance can be found at: Advice on whistleblowing. The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is also available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – the line is available from 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday or via e-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk.

12.10 The Trust has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity or would have been removed had they not left. The DBS will consider whether to bar the person. If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our academy, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the LADO and/or HR. The academy must also consider whether to refer the case to the Secretary of State (via the Teaching Regulation Agency) if a teacher is dismissed or the setting ceases to use the services of a teacher because of serious misconduct or might have dismissed them or ceased to use their services had they not left first.

Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

12.11 The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the thresholds as stated above. In Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire the 'low level' concern process is to consult with the Local Authority Education Duty Desk. Within EMAT, we recognise a low-level concern to be something which is

- inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

12.12 In EMAT we promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the academy or college (including supply teachers, trainee teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. Through training, staff are made aware of what low level concerns are and understand the importance of reporting and these types of concerns in writing.

12.13 All staff should report all concerns to the DSL or to the Principal. When reported to the DSL, the DSL will inform the Principal of the concern immediately. The Principal will always be the ultimate decision maker in respect of all low-level concerns, and with the advice of the LADO or Duty Desk.

Commented [AG7]: I would be a bit stronger here: Staff must not decide for themselves that a concern is "low level". All concerns about an adult's behaviour must be reported; the Principal/DSL, with LADO/Duty Desk advice where appropriate, determines the appropriate threshold and response.

Commented [MC8R7]: Done

12.14 Through training and induction, we ensure that all staff understand the importance of self-referring, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

12.15 Within each EMAT academy we understand the importance of recording low-level concerns and the actions taken in light of these being reported. The records are kept confidential and stored securely. We will review the records we hold to identify potential patterns and take action. This could be through a disciplinary process but also by referring to the Local Authority Education Duty Desk. Please note, where a child, parent/carer or staff member makes an allegation of harm, this will not be considered as a 'low level' concern without consultation with the Local Authority Education Duty Desk or the LADO service directly.

12.16 We recognise that low level concerns should not be included in references unless they relate to issues which would normally be included in a reference, for example, misconduct

or poor performance. However, where a low-level concern (or group of concerns) has met the threshold for referral to the LADO and found to be substantiated, it should be referred to in a reference.

13. USE OF PREMISES FOR NON-ACADEMY/COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

13.1 Where we hire or rent out our facilities/premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities) we ensure that appropriate arrangements as per the DfE guidance Out-of-academy settings: safeguarding guidance for providers are in place to keep children safe.

13.2 We will seek assurances that the body concerned has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place (including inspecting these as needed). Safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement.

13.3 If an allegation is made relating to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using academy premises for non-academy/college activities, we will follow the safeguarding policies and procedures, included in section 12 above.

14 RELEVANT POLICIES

14.1 To underpin the values and ethos of our academy and our intent to ensure that pupils at our academy are appropriately safeguarded the following policies are also included under our safeguarding umbrella:

- EMAT Staff Code of Conduct
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour which includes measures to prevent bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying) – individual for each academy
- EMAT Recruitment & Selection which adheres to Part 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education'*.
- EMAT Whistleblowing
- EMAT Attendance
- EMAT Online Safety
- EMAT Health and Safety including site security
- Harassment and discrimination including racial abuse
- EMAT Meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- Intimate Care – [individual academy document]
- EMAT First aid
- EMAT Educational visits including overnight stays
- EMAT RSHE
- Local Academy Staff Handbook (where applicable)

15. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE (2026)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (2026)
- Working Together to Improve Academy Attendance, DfE (2026)
- Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures
- Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Protocol: Allegations Against Persons Who Work with Children

- Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings (Feb 2022)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused DfE (March 2015)
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services
- The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for academies and childcare providers DfE (September 2023)
- The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation (September 2023)
- Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation- procedural information Home Office (January 2020)
- Multi-agency practice principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm
- Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners DFE (February 2017)
- Teaching online safety in academy DfE (January 2023)
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Academies DfE (November 2018)
- Data protection: toolkit for academies DfE (2026)
- Promoting the education of children with a social worker (March 2025)
- Preventing youth violence and gang involvement
- Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Statutory Guidance (Home Office April 2023)

Appendix 1: Draft Recording Form for Safeguarding Concerns

Staff, volunteers, and regular visitors are required to complete this form and pass it to Sarah Wilson, Gemma Sykes, Glen Rossiter, Lisa Kenny or Sophie Kelly if they have a safeguarding concern about a child in our academy.

Full name of child	Date of Birth	Class/Tutor/Form group	Your name and position in academy

Nature of concern/disclosure
Please include where you were when the child made a disclosure, what you saw, who else was there, what did the child say or do and what you said.

Time & date of incident: Who are you passing this information to? Name: Position: **[Ensure that if there is an injury this is recorded (size and shape) and a body map is completed]** **[Make it clear if you have a raised a concern about a similar issue previously]**
Your signature: **Time form completed:** **Date:**

Nelson Academy

Time form received by DSL:

Action taken by DSL:

Referred to…?

Attendance Lead	Police	Just One Norfolk	CADS	PSA	Other	
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Date: Time:

Parents informed? Yes / No (If No, state reason)

Feedback given to…?

Pastoral team	Teacher	Child	Person who recorded disclosure
☐	☐	☐	☐

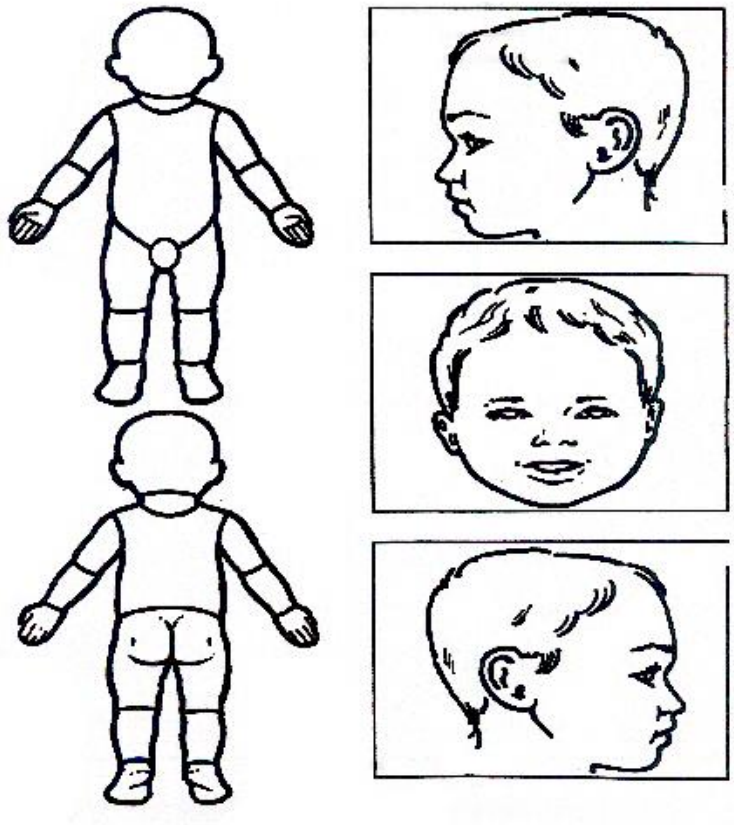
Further Action Agreed:
e.g. Academy to instigate an Early Help Assessment Plan, assessment by Children's Services.

Full name:
DSL Signature:
Date:

Nelson Academy

Body Map

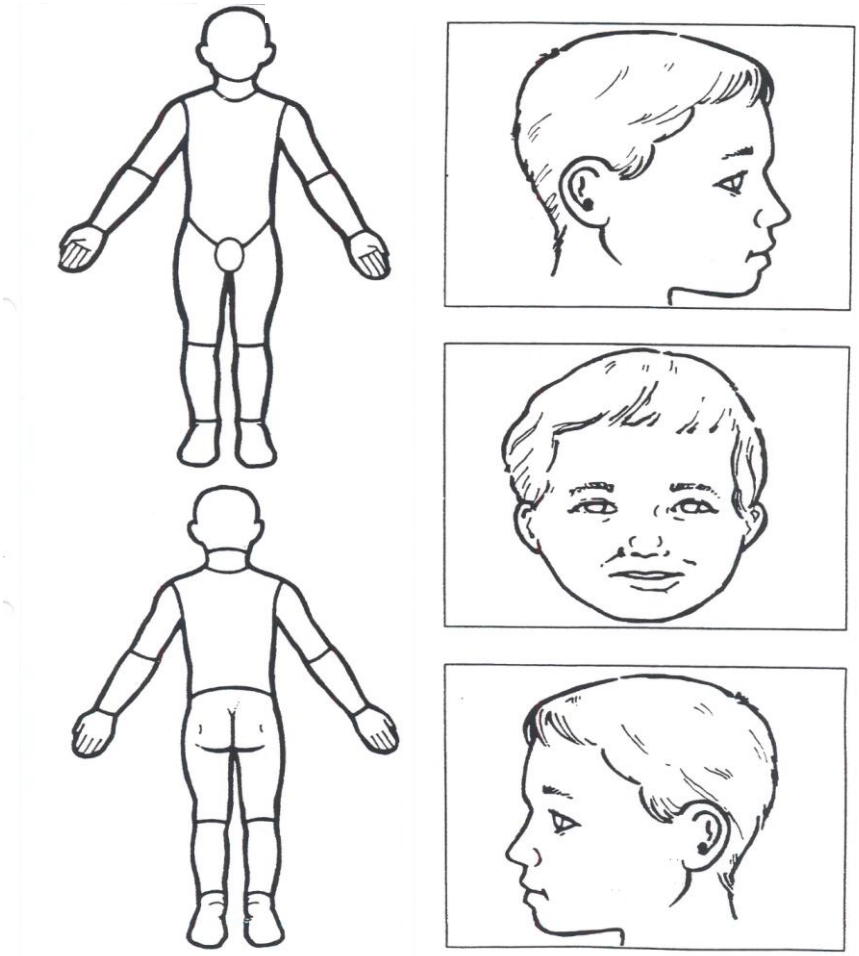
Young Child



Indicate clearly where the injury was seen and attach this to the Recording Form

Nelson Academy

Older Child



Indicate clearly where the injury was seen and attach this to the Recording Form

Appendix 2: Safeguarding Induction Sheet for new or supply staff and regular visitors or volunteers.

We all have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and at our academy we take this responsibility seriously.

If you have any concerns about a child or young person in our academy, you must share this information immediately with our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or one of the alternate post holders.

Do not think that your worry is insignificant if it is about hygiene, appearance or behaviour – we would rather you told us as we would rather know about something that appears small than miss a worrying situation.

If you think the matter is very serious and may be related to child protection, for example, physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, you must find one of the designated professionals detailed below and provide them with a written record of your concern. A copy of the form to complete is attached to this and others can be obtained from the main school office. Please ensure you complete all sections as described.

If you are unable to locate them ask a member of the academy office staff to find them and to ask them to speak with you immediately about a confidential and urgent matter.

Any allegation or low-level concern about a member of staff, a child's foster carer or a volunteer should be reported immediately to the Principal. If an allegation is made about the Principal you should pass this information to the Chair of the Governing Board. Alternatively, you can contact the Local Authority Duty Desk on 01603 307797. NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is also available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – the line is available from 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday or via e-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk.

The people you should talk to in academy are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Sarah Wilson.

Location of office: Nelson Academy, Management Office.

Contact Number: 01366 383824.

Deputy Designated Leads (DDSL): Gemma Sykes, Glen Rossiter, Lisa Kenny, Sophie Kelly.

Location of office: Office - Assistant Principles, SENCO and SRB Lead Teacher

Contact Number: 01366 383824.

Chair of Governing Board: Glen Gates

Contact Number: C/O Nelson Academy 01366 383824.

At Nelson Academy we strive to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our children

Appendix 3: Children's Advice and Duty Service

Safeguarding process:

Commented [AG9]: Follow the local procedure applicable to the academy at which you work.

1. **Identify & Assess Risk**: Identify child at potential or actual risk.
2. **Consult DSL**: Report concerns to your organisation's Designated Safeguarding Lead and document them (e.g., CPOMS) and follow advice regarding contacting CADS or completing a Request for Support.'
3. **Immediate Protection**: If the child is in immediate danger, call 999.
4. **Contact CADS if child protection or immediate safeguarding concerns**.
5. **Professionals** call **0344 800 8021** and choose from the following options:

   Press 1 – if the child or young person is currently being supported by a Social Worker or Family Practitioner.

   Press 2 – if your call relates to Child Exploitation.

   Press 3 – if your call relates to Domestic Abuse.

   Press 0 – for Child Protection and immediate safeguarding concerns.

   (If the lines are busy and your call is not answered within 40 minutes, a call back option will be offered).

   To use the service, **members of the public** can call the Customer Service Centre number **0344 800 8020**.
6. **Request Support for Universal, Community based Early Help and Family Help Complete a Request for Support form:**

   Targeted early help and community-based support can be accessed via Request for support - Norfolk County Council. Early Help is designed to support children, young people, and families experiencing difficulties that may affect their wellbeing, development, or ability to flourish.

   Consent: Inform parents/carers of the concerns and gain consent for support from Early Help services, prior to a call or completing a Request for Support unless doing so places the child at further risk.

   Universal services and community-based early help

   Universal outcomes and community based early help provide preventative support for children and families of all ages, strengthening resilience, improving outcomes, and reducing the risk of needs escalating. Delivered as a coordinated local system rather than a single service, this support is offered

through universal provision such as education, health, and wider community services.

It includes services like Best Start Family Hubs, youth, and housing support, and after academy provision.

Best Start Family Hubs offer a clear pathway from pregnancy to age 19 (or 25 for young people with SEND), bringing together multi agency partners to provide accessible, ongoing community support and to safeguard families, including those transferring from targeted or specialist services.

Family Help – targeted early help, safeguarding, and promoting the welfare of children.

Family Help is offered where universal services and community based early help have not achieved sufficient or sustained improvement, or where a child and family present with multiple, complex, or escalating needs. Delivered through a coordinated, multi-agency approach led by Children's Services and its partners, Family Help provides structured support to address identified risks and concerns. Family Help will only be initiated where there is an agreed Family Plan, or a Graded Care Profile (GCP) in cases of neglect, which has been shared with CADS.

Family Help is a voluntary, consent based approach that supports families to build capacity, improve outcomes, and reduce risks, including families in kinship arrangements and those requiring additional support during pregnancy, with the aim of preventing the need for statutory child protection intervention.

Consent: Inform parents/carers of the concerns and gain consent for support from Early Help services, prior to a call or completing a Request for Support unless doing so places the child at further risk.

7. **CADS:** A member of the team responds to the call or Request for Support and decides on next steps.

8. **Information Gathering**: MASH partners (police, health, social care) share information if required.

9. **Outcome & Action:**

   Information, advice, and guidance

   Community based Early Help

   Family Help

10. **Feedback:** Following a call CADS provides feedback to the referrer regarding the outcome.

Nelson Academy

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub- MASH (0345 606 1499)

Before contacting MASH, please answer the following questions and follow the advice provided:

Can you evidence that the child is experiencing or likely to suffer significant harm?

YES

Do you have the consent of the parents/young person to make contact with MASH or have you informed them of your intention to do so?

Inform the parents and/or gain their consent for you to make this contact unless doing so would put the child at risk

Gather all the family's details including dates of birth, current address, current and working contact details and family composition, along with the history and

Call MASH on the phone line. This number can be found in the staffroom. Have a discussion with a Consultant Social Worker. A copy of the discussion with be securely emailed or posted to you. Follow the advice given by the Consultant social worker.

Keep a record for your own agency's safeguarding recording process

NB: The contact number is

0345 606 1499.

NO

Have you discussed the child's needs with your agency safeguarding lead or your line manager?

Discuss the child with your agency safeguarding lead or line manager if available and follow their advice when providing support to the family

Have you considered setting up an FSP or Have you carried out an Early Help assessment and/or Early Help Plan with the child and their family?

Speak to the parents and the child about your worries and discuss with them how your agency can help and support the children and family. You could carry out an FSP, an Early Help Assessment or seek Early Help support. Follow the Early Help guidance on the SSP website to support you in this process.

Where you have carried out an Early Help Assessment and Plan which has been reviewed and amended as required - and the child's needs are not being met or in fact have increased, gather the information requested

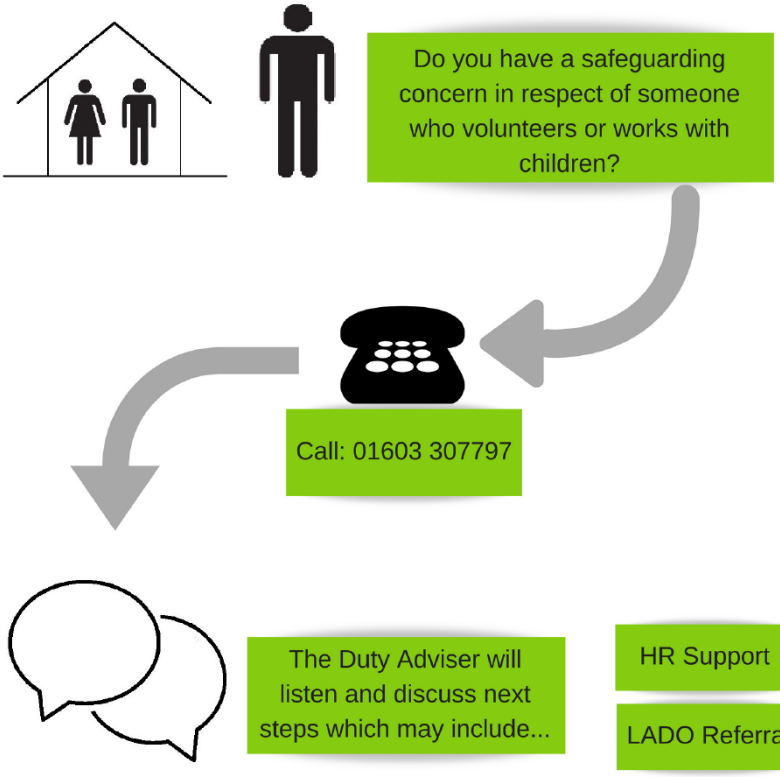
Appendix 4: Advice for schools, colleges and alternative education providers where there are concerns about an adult who works within the setting – (Norfolk)

Norfolk County Council

Guidance for Schools, Colleges & Alternative Education Providers

Education Quality Assurance & Intervention Service

Duty Desk



Appendix 5: Operation Encompass

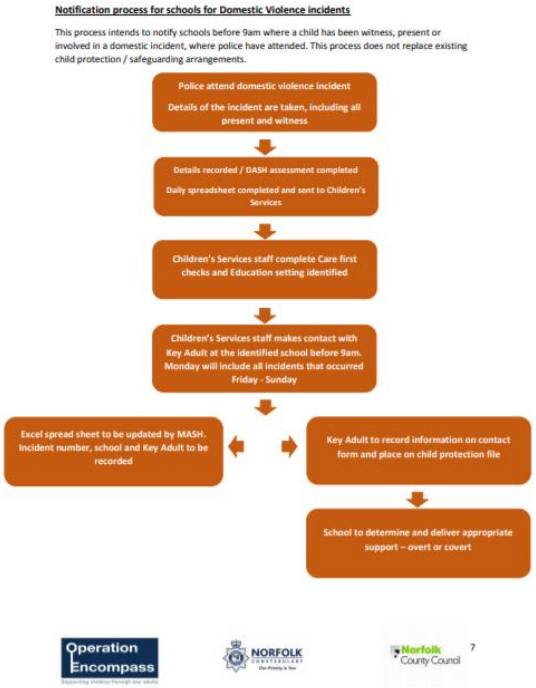
Norfolk Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools

At the Nelson Academy we work in partnership with Norfolk Police and Norfolk County Council on the initiative Operation Encompass https://www.operationencompass.org/

- Operation Encompass is an initiative enhances communication between the police and schools where a child is at risk from domestic abuse

- The purpose of the information sharing is to ensure schools have more information to support safeguarding of children. By knowing that the child has had this experience, the school is in a better position to understand and be supportive of the child's needs and possible behaviours

- Operation Encompass will complement existing safeguarding procedures



Nelson Academy

Appendix 6: Safeguarding Students: Visitor Information Leaflet

Nelson Academy

Safeguarding Students: Visitor Information

'Achieving Through Learning'

Nelson Academy fully recognises the responsibility it has under Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and we are fully committed to fostering a culture and ethos where every child feels safe here.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (Sept 2026).

Young people can be abused in a number of ways and it is the responsibility of all members of the Nelson Academy community, namely staff, students, parents and visitors to report any concerns that they may have concerning the welfare of our students.

Physical abuse	Physical abuse is the deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts.
Emotional abuse	Children who are emotionally abused suffer emotional maltreatment or neglect. Its sometimes called psychological abuse and can cause children serious harm.
Neglect	Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. It is dangerous and children can suffer serious and long-term harm.
Domestic Abuse	Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse, and children can suffer domestic abuse in their relationships.
Sexual Abuse	A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This does not have to be physical contact and can happen online.
Female Genital Mutilation	Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.
Prevent	Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

Designated Safeguarding Team at Nelson Academy

Sarah Wilson
Principal (DSL)

Gemma Sykes
CYFS & Pastoral Support (DDSL)

Glen Rossiter
Key Stage 1 & 2 Lead (DDSL)

Lisa Kenny
SENCO (DDSL)

Sophie Kelly
SRB Lead (DDSL)

If you have concerns about the welfare of any of our students, you must report this directly to one of the people above. All referrals will be fully investigated and appropriate action taken according to the Nelson Academy Safeguarding Policy. Whilst it is not possible to give specific feed-back on any referrals made, we will endeavour to provide some feedback to anyone highlighting a safeguarding concern at Nelson Academy.

EMAT
EASTERN MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Appendix 7: List of Multi-Agencies and External Groups who support Safeguarding in the Academy

Downham Market Academy – Safer School Partnership – 01366 389100

Downham Market Food Bank - 01366384474/07707191674
www.downhammarket.foodbank.org.uk
info@downhammarket.foodbank.org.uk

Family Action - www.family-action.org.uk

Men's Shed - 01366 386447
dmms637@gmail.com

Nelson's Journey – 01603 431788
www.nelsonsjourney.org.uk
enquiries@nelsonsjourney.org.uk

No Child Goes Hungry (Downham Market) – 01366 386259
www.swanyouthproject.org
sonja@swanyouthproject.org

Norfolk Early Help – www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-help

Norfolk Just One Number – 0300 300 0123
www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk

Pandora Project – www.pandoraproject.org.uk

Salvation Army (Downham Market) – 01366 386031
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/downham-market

Swan Youth Project - 01366 386259
www.swanyouthproject.org

Policy for Safeguarding incorporating Child Protection Annex A

As a member of the Eastern Multi Academy Trust we are committed to our shared ethos on the safeguarding of young people.

The child's welfare is of paramount importance. Nelson academy will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children at our academy will be able to talk freely to any member of staff if they are worried or concerned about something.

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. We recognise that staff play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. *All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned*. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members must always act in the best interest of the child.

We all have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and at Nelson Academy we take this responsibility seriously. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything that we do within the academy. If you have a concern about a child, young person or adult in our academy, you must share this information immediately with our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL). Do not think that your worry is insignificant if it is about hygiene, appearance or behaviour. We would rather you told us as we would rather know about something that appears small than miss a worrying situation. Everyone should adopt the attitude that 'it could happen here'.

All staff, including volunteers must undertake a Safeguarding and Child Protection induction. There is also a termly update which is given to all regarding safeguarding. This includes reminders of key information and nay new updates. New visitors to the Academy will be given the 'Safeguarding Students: Visitor Information' leaflet (see Appendix 6) which includes photographs showing the DSL and DDSLs for the Academy.

Our curriculum is used to promote safeguarding by teaching pupils how to stay safe (online safety – this has been increased due to the greater online presence during and after Covid-19 lockdowns, NSPCC Talk PANTS, RHSE Curriculum), how to protect themselves from harm and how to take responsibility for their own and other's safety. Educational visits will have thorough risk assessments undertaken and shared with adults and children. The curriculum will be

supplemented by visits from road safety officers, PCSO's and other professionals as appropriate.

We recognise that our safeguarding responsibilities are clearly linked to our responsibilities for ensuring that appropriate safeguarding responses are in place for children who are absent from our academy or who go missing from education, particularly for unexplainable, prolonged and/or on persistent occasions. This includes completion of county CME1 forms for children who have left the Academy. The Academy has an action plan in place (Nelson Academy Attendance Procedures) to ensure that no child is at risk of missing education. This includes first day call back/text, home visits, support from student support team, attendance panel meetings with parents, use of support panels e.g. Early help Assessment Plan (EHAP), the use of Fast Track procedures when needed, as well as working alongside external agencies.

The Academy is a part of a jointly run operation between Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police and our Academy which is called Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass has been set up to help schools to provide support to children who have been present at incidents of domestic violence. We know that children can be significantly physically and emotionally harmed when they are involved in, present or witness to domestic violence. All staff have received Operation Encompass awareness training and the leads for Operation Encompass at Nelson Academy are Sarah Wilson (Principal/DSL), and Gemma Sykes (Assistant Principal EYFS, and Pastoral Support/DDSL). During any school closure the DSL and DDSL will remain contactable at all times with email addressed supplied to the hub.

The Academy safeguarding team meets at least half termly to discuss safeguarding throughout the Academy. The safeguarding team remains in constant contact via 'CPOMS' which links them all directly to concerns raised, actions and outcomes.

The Academy has a domestic abuse champion, who has had training run by Norfolk County Council. The Nelson Academy domestic abuse champion is Gemma Sykes (Assistant Principal EYFS and Pastoral Support/DDSL).

The Academy has two mental health leads – They are Sarah Wilson (Principal/DSL), and Gemma Sykes (Assistant Principal EYFS, and Pastoral Support/DDSL).

Staff contact out of school hours – As a general rule, staff should not have contact with pupils outside of school hours. Where emails and online platforms have become more a part of general school use, any contact should only be related to homework set and any other attempts by pupils to contact teachers directly should be reported to a line manager who will rectify this. As a local community school, with staff as parents and part of the local community, there is also the potential for some social contact outside of school hours such as at children's parties etc. All such contact should be explainable with staff expected to maintain their professionalism at all times. Staff should speak with the

Principal if there is any contact that might fall outside such familial or community connection.

Out of hours contact – If assistance is required out of school hours, for example at the weekend or during the holidays, you can contact the NSPCC 24 hours a day, via their website: www.nspcc.org.uk or via telephone and email.

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 (10am-8pm) or help@nspcc.org.uk (24 hours a day).

Young people under the age of 18 can call Childline on 0800 1111 at any time of the day.

Alternatively, you can contact the Norfolk County council Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS). This service is available to anyone who is worried about the welfare of a child.

CADS: 0344 800 8021 (for professionals) 0344 800 8020 (for members of the public).

If you think that a child is in immediate danger, do not delay, you must call the Police on 999 straight away.

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at the Nelson Academy. We strive to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our children whilst creating an environment where children feel safe and able to learn to the best of their ability.

Roles and Responsibilities.

Role	Name	Contact Details
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Sarah Wilson	01366 383824 sarah.wilson@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Gemma Sykes Glen Rossiter Lisa Kenny Sophie Kelly	01366 383824 gemma.sykes@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk glen.rossiter@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk lisa.kenny@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk sophie.kelly@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk

Principal	Sarah Wilson	01366 383824 sarah.wilson@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk
Named Safeguarding Academy Committee Member	Glen Gates	glen.gates@eastern-mat.co.uk
Chair of Academy Committee	Glen Gates	glen.gates@eastern-mat.co.uk
Safer Recruitment Trained Personnel	Sarah Wilson Gemma Sykes Glen Rossiter Lisa Kenny	sarah.wilson@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk gemma.sykes@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk glen.rossiter@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk lisa.kenny@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk
DSL Responsible for Filtering and Monitoring the IT System in the Academy	Sarah Wilson	01366 383824 sarah.wilson@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk

The academy recognises and is working to put in place the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026 which was published on 1st September 2026 and came into effect immediately.

Comparing the 1st September version against the July 2026 'for information' version shows six substantive changes.

Four of these introduce racism and faith-based prejudice as an explicit safeguarding category, appearing in Part One, in the definition of child-on-child abuse, and as a whole-school culture expectation.

The remaining two changes tighten the definition of sexual abuse (to bring it in line with Working Together); and tightens the safer recruitment of volunteers working in EYFS settings.

These new paragraphs also mean that the paragraph numbering has altered throughout.

- ***Prejudice-based harm (paragraph 17):*** *new duty for all staff to recognise racism, faith-based prejudice, and other discrimination as harm in its own right*
- ***Sexual abuse definition (paragraph 28):*** *widened from "forcing or enticing" to "forcing, causing or inciting", with new lines confirming*

children are more likely to know their abuser than not, and that under-13s can never legally consent to sexual activity

- ***Faith-targeted abuse (paragraph 32):*** *new paragraph stating that racism and faith-targeted abuse can significantly affect a child's welfare, wellbeing and sense of safety*
- ***Child-on-child abuse (paragraph 37):*** *discriminatory behaviour, including racism and faith-targeted abuse, added to the definition of child-on-child abuse*
- ***Whole-school culture (paragraph 119):*** *new expectation that schools promote an inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture as part of their safeguarding responsibilities*
- ***EYFS volunteers (paragraph 386):*** *"Where schools are also subject to the EYFS framework, volunteers must not be permitted to begin working within the settings covered by the EYFS framework until the school or maintained nursery school has received the volunteer's enhanced DBS certificate including barred list information. "*

The final version of Keeping Children Safe in Education for 2026 can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2