



BRANWOOD
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Version	2 (Version 1 March 2013)	3	4	5	6	7
Policy reviewed on	January 2015	October 2015	January 2016	January 2017	May 2017	May 2018
Policy Written by	Mrs Follett (Head)	Mrs Follett (Head)	Mrs Follett (Head)	Mrs Follett (Head)	Mrs Follett (Head)	Mr Whittell (Head)
Policy seen by Governor on (date / signature)						
Date of Next Review	January 2016	January 2016	January 2017	January 2018	May 2018	May 2019

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1.0 Rationale

1.1 At Branwood Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and/or development, ensuring that children grow up in the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

1.2 This policy forms part of a thorough and rigorous system to ensure that children are safeguarded by a robust suite of documents and policies which relate to the safeguarding responsibilities of the school.

2.0 Aims (and Mission Statement)

2.1 To inform staff, parents, volunteers, Trustees and Governors about the school's responsibilities for safeguarding children.

2.2 To enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities should be carried out.

2.3 To establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to when they have a worry or concern.

2.4 To establish and maintain an environment where school staff and volunteers feel safe, are encouraged to talk and are listened to when they have concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a child.

2.5 To ensure that children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.

2.6 Ensure that children who have been abused will be supported in line with a child protection plan, where deemed necessary.

2.7 To include opportunities within the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

2.8 To contribute to the five outcomes which are key to children's wellbeing:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution

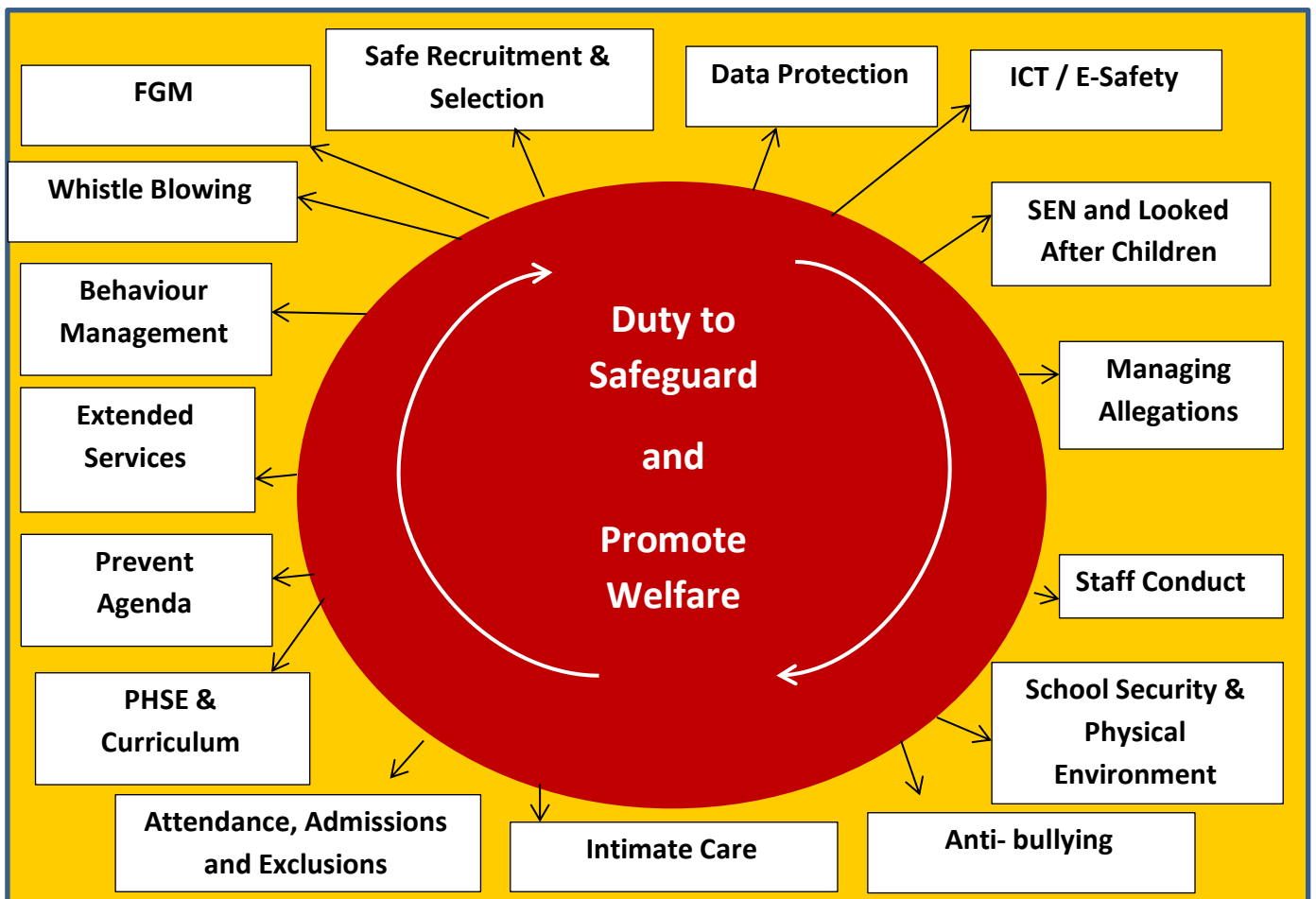
- Achieve economic wellbeing

2.9 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children’s health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

3.0 Links to other Policies

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy should be read in conjunction with other policies and guidance including those identified below depending upon the reason for referring to them.



4.0 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

4.1 The policy will be reviewed annually by the Head and Governing Body. It may be reviewed at other times if needed due to changes in legislation, practice or by recommendation from the Salford Safeguarding Team.

4.2 It will be implemented through the school's induction and training programme, and as part of day to day practice. Compliance with the policy will be monitored by the Designated Senior Lead and through staff performance measures.

5.0 Statutory Framework and Guidance

5.1 Our school will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2004
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2016)
- Keeping children safe in Education: information for all school and college staff (DfE 2014). See Appendix 1 attached to the policy.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMG 2015)
- The Education (pupil information) Regulations (England) 2005
- The Prevent Agenda (DfE June 2015)
- Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (Home Office October 2015)
- Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners (HMG 2015)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (HMG 2015)
- Serious Crime Act 2015)
- Data Protection Act 1998

(Each of these documents can be found in the Head's office.)

5.2 As new legislation and guidance is brought to the schools attention, whether from the DfE, Government or from Salford Safeguarding Team, the school will ensure that copies are added to the folder and the relevant policy / policies are updated.

5.3 Branwood has procedures in place for protecting children and responding to situations in which we believe that a child has been or is at risk of abuse – these procedures also cover circumstances in which a member of staff is accused of, or suspected of, abuse.

5.6 Keeping Children Safe in Education places the following responsibilities on ALL schools:

- Schools should be aware of and follow established procedures
- Staff should be alert to signs of abuse and know to whom they should report any concerns or suspicions

- Schools should have procedures (of which all staff should be aware) for handling suspected cases of abuse of pupils, including procedures to be followed if a member of staff is accused of abuse, or suspected of abuse
- A Designated Senior Lead should have responsibility for co-ordinating action within the school and liaising with other agencies
- Staff with the Designated Safeguarding Lead should undergo updated child protection training every two years (Appendix 1 – Staff list of training – not to be attached publicly due to Data Protection)
- The Governing body and Trustees should ensure there is an effective child protection policy in place together with a staff behaviour policy (Code of Conduct). Both being provided to ALL staff – including temporary staff and volunteers.
- The child protection policy should describe procedures which are in accordance with government guidance and refer to locally agreed inter-agency procedures (Salford Bridge), be updated annually, and be available publicly either by the school website or other means.

6.0 The Designated Safeguarding Lead

6.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection at Branwood Preparatory School is...

Mr Andrew Whittell, Headmaster

In the absence or unavailability of Mrs Follett, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection at Branwood Preparatory School is...

Mrs J. Walker, Deputy Headmistress

6.2 The broad areas of responsibility for the Designated Safeguarding Lead are:

Managing Referrals

- Refer all cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care
- Police (cases where a crime may have been committed)
- Liaise with the Chair of Governors and Trustees to inform them of issues, especially ongoing cases and those involving police investigations
- Act as a source of advice and support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with the relevant agencies.
- Ensure that everyone in school (including temporary staff, volunteers and contractors) are aware of the procedures and that they are followed at all times.
- Ensure that there is evidence to show all staff and governors have read and understood Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.
- Ensure that all staff receive regular training and updates on children protection and safeguarding as required, at least annually.
- Ensure that temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for safeguarding children at the start of work.

- Develop and maintain effective procedures to work with social care, the police, health services and other services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Salford – The Bridge Partnership –

All reports or enquires concerning the welfare or safety of a child

0161 603 4500 or worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk

If there is a need to inform Salford Children’s Social Care of a family that has transferred to Salford, contact the Safeguarding Children and Quality Assurance Unit

0161 603 4350 or cpru@salford.gov.uk

Training - The Designated Safeguarding Lead will receive appropriate training carried out every two years in order to

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example, through locally agreed (Salford) common and shared assessment processes
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school’s child protection policy and procedures
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among staff, in any measures the school may put in place to protect them
- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example, through locally agreed (Salford) common and shared assessment processes

Raising Awareness

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead should ensure the school policies are known and used appropriately
- Ensure the school’s child protection policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with the Trustees and Governing Body in doing this
- Ensure that the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school in this
- Link with Salford Safeguarding Team to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding
- Where children leave the school ensure their child protection file is copied for any new school as soon as possible but transferred separately, and securely, from the main pupil file.

7.0 The Governing Body

7.1 Branwood School is aware that the Trustees and Governing body must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training at Branwood is effective and complies with the law at all times.

7.2 The nominated Governor for child protection is

Mrs Joanne Wilcox
Chair of Governors / Trustee

7.3 In particular she will ensure that the Governing Body and Trustees know what responsibilities are placed upon them, including

- Their contribution to inter-agency working, which includes providing co-ordinated support and assistance where and when needed to meet the needs of identified children
- Ensuring that the child protection policy is in place and is effective, while also doing the same for other policies which are identified in point 3.0 within this policy
- Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will have child protection training every two years
- Prioritise the welfare of children at Branwood and create a culture where staff feel confident to challenge the senior management team over any safeguarding concerns is needed
- Recruits staff and volunteers in line with safer recruitment processes
- Make sure that the children are taught about how to keep themselves safe through the curriculum (Appendix 2 – Summary of practice within the whole school)
- Provides, with the Head, regular quality assurance reports to the Governing board in relation to policy, procedure and practice.

8.0 School Procedures – Staff Responsibilities

8.1 If ANY member of staff, volunteer or visitor is concerned about a child they MUST inform the Designated Senior Lead or the Deputy as the same day.

8.2 The member of staff must record the information regarding the concerns the same day on the Cause for Concern sheet (Appendix 3). These can be found in the staff room on display, in the Head's office and on the school network. The recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations or information.

8.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) will decide whether the concerns should be referred to the **Salford – The Bridge Partnership**. If it is decided to make a referral this will be discussed with the parents, unless to do so would place the child, or other children, at further risk of harm. In some cases the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) will ring and have an informal

chat with **Salford – The Bridge Partnership** to discuss the concerns and then make it formal afterwards if needed.

8.4 Particular attention will be paid to the attendance and development of any child about whom the school has concerns, or who has been identified as being the subject of a child protection plan and a written record will be kept on the Cause for Concern sheet (Appendix 3).

8.5 If a pupil who is / or has been the subject of a child protection plan changes school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will inform the Social Worker responsible for the case and ensure the transfer of information/ records to the new school is done in a secure manner (delivered by hand and signed for or posted through recorded post which will also be signed for)

8.6 The Designate Safeguarding Lead is responsible for making sure that the Senior Management Team, Governors and Trustees are aware of any safeguarding information and trends in behaviour and issues that may affect pupil welfare. This is a standard agenda item at the Governors and Trustees Meetings.

8.7 Members of staff at Branwood have a duty to refer safeguarding concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection. However if,

- Concerns are not taken seriously
- Action to safeguard the child is not taken by the Senior Management Team
- The child is considered to be at continuing risk of harm

, then staff should speak to **Mrs Joanne Wilcox, Chair of Governors / Trustee.**

8.8 If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made immediately to

**Salford – The Bridge Partnership –
All reports or enquires concerning the welfare or safety of a child**

0161603 4500 or worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk

GMP Public Protection Investigation Unit (PPIU) – for referrals/consultation about crime-related safeguarding concerns – tel: 0161 856 5171 or e mail parklane.ppiu@gmp.police.uk

Anyone can make a referral!

8.9 If the child's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration.

8.10 If the concerns raised by staff are against another child not at Branwood the Designated Safeguarding Lead should contact

**Salford - The Bridge Partnership –
All reports or enquires concerning the welfare or safety of a child**

0161603 4500 or worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk

9.0 When to be Concerned

9.1 All staff and volunteers should be aware that the main categories of abuse are

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

9.2 All staff and volunteers should be concerned about a child if they present with indicators of possible significant harm (see Appendix 4) or concerned about FGM (see Appendix 5)

9.3 Generally, in an abusive relationship the child may

- Appear frightened of the parent(s) or household members when outside the home environment
- Act in a way that is inappropriate to their age and development (full accounts of this MUST be recorded)
- Display insufficient sense of 'boundaries', lack of stranger awareness
- Appear wary of adults and display inappropriate behaviour

9.4 Peer on Peer Abuse – Our school may be the only stable, secure and safe element in the lives of children at risk of, or who have suffered harm. Our school recognises that some children may abuse their peers and any incidents of peer on peer abuse will be managed in the same way as any other child protection concern and will follow the same procedures.

Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This may include bullying (including cyber bullying), on-line abuse, gender-based abuse, sexting or sexually harmful behaviour. We do not tolerate any harmful behaviour in school and will take swift action to intervene where this occurs. We use lessons and assemblies to help children to understand, in an age-appropriate way, what abuse is and we encourage them to tell a trusted adult if someone is behaving in a way that can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse.

All members of our staff would follow the Anti-Bullying Policy and report to the Head.

9.5 Children with special educational needs and disabilities

Our school understands that children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. This can 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 disproportionately impacted by things like bullying - without outwardly showing any signs;
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

9.6 Children missing from education

All children, regardless of their age, ability, aptitude, and any special education needs they may have are entitled to a full-time education. Our school recognises that a child missing education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and will follow the school procedures for unauthorised absence and for children missing education. Parents should always inform us of the reason for any absence. Where contact is not made, a referral may be made to another appropriate agency (Missing Education and Child Employment Service, Social Care or Police).

Our school must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without school permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more.

9.7 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It is understood that a significant number of children who are victims of CSE go missing from home, care and education at some point. Our school is alert to the signs and indicators of a child becoming at risk of, or subject to, CSE and will take appropriate action to respond to any concerns. The designated safeguarding lead is the named CSE Lead in school on these issues and will work with other agencies as appropriate.

9.8 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

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

As of October 2015, the Serious Crime Act 2015 (Home Office, 2015) introduced a duty on teachers (and other professionals) to notify the police of known cases of female genital mutilation where it appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18. Our school will operate in accordance with the statutory requirements relating to this issue, and in line with existing local safeguarding procedures.

9.9 Forced marriage

A forced marriage is one entered into without the full consent of one or both parties. It is where violence, threats or other forms of coercion is used and is a crime. Our staff understand how to report concerns where this may be an issue.

9.10 Prevention of radicalisation

As of July 2015, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (HMG, 2015) placed a new duty on schools and other education providers. Under section 26 of the ACT, schools are required, in the exercise of

their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

It requires schools to:

- teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life and must promote cohesion
- be safe spaces in which children/young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas
- be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues

CHANNEL is a national programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Our staff understand how to identify those who may benefit from this support and how to make a referral.

9.11 We are committed to actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Through the implementation of our school Statement of Core Values, the pupils are encouraged to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

There is a current threat from terrorism in the UK and this can include the exploitation of vulnerable young people, aiming to involve them in terrorism or to be active in supporting terrorism. All staff have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and draw upon the Prevent Duty Guidance, DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016", and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", and DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People".

When operating this policy, we will use the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism, which is:

"Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members in our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas."

Staff will have training that gives them knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideologies. Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent but non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists can exploit.

All staff seek to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to those linked to Islam ideology, far right/Neo-Nazi/white supremacist ideology etc. Concerns should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Child Protection Person who has local contact details for Prevent and Channel referrals. They will also consider whether circumstances require the police to be contacted. Further information can be found at <http://www.partnersinsalford.org/asg-extremism.htm>

10.0 Dealing with a Disclosure

10.0 All action is taken in accordance with the following guidelines

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016
- Working Together to Safeguard Children Dfe 2015
- PREVENT Duty, Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

If a child discloses that they have or are being abused in some way, the member of staff / volunteer must

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely
- Reassure the child, but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep
- Not promise confidentiality – it might be necessary to refer it on
- Reassure them that what has happened is not their fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell someone
- Listen, only asking questions when necessary to clarify a point
- Not criticise the alleged perpetrator
- Explain what has to be done next and who is to be told
- Make a written record (see Appendix 3)
- Pass information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead the same day.

11.0 Support

11.1 Branwood Senior Management Team realise that dealing with a disclosure from a child, and safeguarding issues, can be stressful. The member of staff / volunteer, therefore, should consider seeking support for themselves and discuss the impact upon themselves or the need for support with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

12.0 Confidentiality

12.1 Safeguarding children raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staff, volunteers, governors and trustees.

12.2 All staff at Branwood have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals.

12.3 If a child confides in a member of staff and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff tell the child in an age appropriate manner that they cannot promise complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass the information to other people to help to keep them or other children safe.

12.4 Staff and volunteers who receive information about a child and their families in the course of their work should share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.

13.0 Communication with Parents

13.1 Branwood will ensure the child protection policy is available publicly by the school website and make it available on paper upon request.

13.2 Parents will be informed prior to a referral, unless it is considered to do so might place the child at increased risk of significant harm.

14.0 Record Keeping

14.1 When a child has made a disclosure, the member of staff / volunteer should

- Record, as soon as possible after the conversation, on the same day.
- Use the 'Cause for Concern' form (Appendix 3)
- Do not destroy the original notes in case they are ever needed in court
- Record the date, time and any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and words the child uses
- If necessary, draw a diagram to indicate the position of any injuries
- Record any statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions.

14.2 All records need to be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead promptly. Not copies are to be taken by the member of staff or volunteer. No completed forms are to be left on a desk for anyone else to read.

14.3 All records are to be filed appropriately and kept in a secure locked cupboard (Filing Cabinet in the Bursars Office)

14.4 Where a pupil transfers from our school to another, their child protection records will be forwarded to the new educational setting. These will be marked as 'Confidential' and for the attention of the receiving school's designated safeguarding lead, with a return address on the

envelope so it can be returned to us if it goes astray. Ideally, where the school is close enough we would do a face-to-face meeting.

Where a pupils joins our school, we will request any records, including children protection, from the previous educational establishment.

15.0 Allegations involving school staff / volunteers

11.1 An allegation is any information which indicates that a member of staff / volunteer may have

- Behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against / related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way which indicates they would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children

11.2 This applies to any child the member of staff or volunteer has contact within their personal, professional or community life.

11.3 To reduce the risk of allegations, all staff should be aware of safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the Staff Handbook.

11.4 The person to whom an allegation is first reported should take the matter seriously and keep an open mind. They should not investigate or ask any leading questions if seeking clarification as it is important not to make any assumption. As with children, confidentiality should not be promised and the person should be advised that the concern will be shared on a need to know basis only.

11.5 Actions to be taken are,

- Make an immediate written record of the allegation using the informant's words
- Include the time, date and place where the alleged incident took place, brief details of what happened, what was said and who was present
- It must be signed, dated and immediately passed on to the Head

11.6 If concerns are about the Head, then the Chair of Governors should be contacted immediately and LADO.

Mrs Joanne Wilcox, Chair of Governors / Trustee.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Salford, Patsy Malloy, on 0161 603 4350 / 445

11.7 In the absence of the Chair of Governors, the Chair of Trustees should be contacted.

Mr Terry Cramant, Chair of Trustees

11.8 The recipient of an allegation must NOT unilaterally determine its validity, and failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter.

11.9 The Head will not investigate the allegation themselves, or take written and detailed statements, but will assess the concern and inform the Chair of Governors and Trustees to see

whether it is necessary to contact **Salford** - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Salford, Patsy Malloy, on

0161 603 4350

0161603 4500 or worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk

11.10 All staff members are made aware of the boundaries of appropriate behaviour and conduct. These matters form part of staff induction and are outlined in the Employee Handbook.

11.11 The school works in accordance with statutory guidance and the Salford procedures in respect of allegations against an adult working with children (in a paid or voluntary capacity).

12.0 Whistleblowing

12.1 Whistleblowing is 'making a disclosure in the public interest' and occurs when a worker (or wider member of the community) raises a concern about danger or illegality that affects others, for example in the school or members of the public.

12.2 All staff are made aware of the duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of staff in line with the schools Whistleblowing Policy.

12.3 We want everyone to feel able to report any child protection / safeguarding concerns.

Version	Date of Review	Reviewer	Changes made
2	January 2015	<i>Mrs Follett</i>	Change to the lay out of the policy. Changes to the policy in line with new legislation and guidance from the Salford Safeguarding Team.
3	October 2015	<i>Mrs Follett</i>	Change to add in mandatory information about The Prevent Agenda and Female Genital Mutilation
4	January 2016	<i>Mrs Follett</i>	Change of Deputy Designated Lead
5	January 2017	<i>Mrs Follett</i>	Addition of LADO contact (11.6)
6	May 2017	<i>Mrs Follett</i>	Addition of up-to-date legislation / guidance Peer on Peer Abuse, SEN links, Radicalism, staff behaviour
7	May 2018	Mr Whittell	Addition to SP to date legislation Headmistress changed to Head. DSL & DDSL names updated.

Appendix 4

Indicators of Significant Harm

The following guidance is intended to help all professionals who come into contact with children. It should not be used as a comprehensive guide, nor does the presence of one or more factors prove that a child has been abused, but it may however indicate that further enquiries should be made.

The following factors should be taken into account when assessing risks to a child. This is not an exhaustive list.

- An unexplained delay in seeking treatment that is obviously needed;
- An unawareness or denial of any injury, pain or loss of function;
- Incompatible explanations offered or several different explanations given for a child's illness or injury;
- A child reacting in a way that is inappropriate to his/her age or development;
- Reluctance to give information or failure to mention previous known injuries;
- Frequent attendances at Accident and Emergency Departments or use of different doctors and Accident and Emergency Departments;
- Frequent presentation of minor injuries (which if ignored could lead to a more serious injury);
- Unrealistic expectations/constant complaints about the child;

- Alcohol misuse or other substance misuse;
- A parents request to remove a child from home or indication of difficulties in coping with the child;
- Domestic violence;
- Parental mental ill health;
- The age of the child and the pressures of caring for a number of children in one household.