

Safeguarding Policy

Policy written February 2017 – Review date February 2018

1 Statement

- 1.1 ***“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes in to contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively all professionals should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child’.***
Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016

- 1.2 At Bradford Christian School there is nothing more important to us than the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare of our pupils. For this reason, we regard Safeguarding as vitally important. The school recognises its legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children, protect them from harm, and respond to child abuse, by following the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory guidance for schools and colleges, ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’, September 2016.

- 1.3 We believe that every child regardless of age has at all times and in all situations a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically, psychologically or spiritually damaged. The school hopes that parents and children will feel free to talk about any concerns and will see school as a safe place at all times.

2 Aims

- 2.1 At Bradford Christian School we aim to minimise risk to the safety of our pupils by:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
 - Preventing impairment of children’s health or development
 - Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
 - Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’, September 2016.

- 2.2 This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that all members of staff and volunteers who have suspicion that a child may be suffering, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, are aware of the need to refer such concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will refer on to Children’s Services in accordance with the procedures issued by Bradford Safeguarding Children Board. Staff will also be aware that they are able to refer such matters directly if they feel the need to.
- Ensuring that children’s worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. However, staff must not promise secrecy if concerns arise a referral must be made to the child protection officer in addition to appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child’s welfare.
- Accepting totally that safeguarding children is an appropriate function for all members of staff in the school, and wholly compatible with their primary pedagogic responsibilities.
- Recognising that safeguarding children in this school is a responsibility for all staff, including volunteers, and the Governing body
- Ensuring through training and supervision that all staff and volunteers in the school are alert to the possibility that a child is at risk of suffering harm, and know how to report concerns or suspicions
- Designating a senior member of staff with knowledge and skills in recognising and acting on child

protection concerns as Designated Safeguard Lead. He or she will act as a source of expertise and advice, and is responsible for co-ordinating action within the school and liaising with other agencies

- Ensuring that the designated member of staff responsible for child protection will receive appropriate training to the minimum standard set out by the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)
- Sharing our concerns with others who need to know, and assist in any referral process
- Safeguarding the welfare of children whilst in the school, through positive measures to address bullying, especially where this is aggravated by sexual or racial factors, disability or special educational needs
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the child protection procedures established by Bradford Safeguarding Children Board and, where appropriate, the Local Authority, and act on any guidance or advice given by them. This will be updated for all staff at least once every year.
- Ensuring through our recruitment and selection of volunteers and paid employees that all people who work in our school are suitable to work with children,
- Acting swiftly and make appropriate referrals where an allegation is made that a member of staff has committed an offence against a child, harmed a child, or acted in a way that calls into question their suitability for working with children.
- Ensuring children know how to complain and understand the process for doing so. They can identify a trusted adult with whom they can talk about any concerns.
- Putting in place appropriate safeguarding responses to young people who regularly go missing.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 The Governing Body

Bradford Christian School has a Governing Body and a Designated Governor, **Andrew Taylor**, whose legal responsibility is to make sure that the school has appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place in order for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

3.2 Where appropriate, the Governors will ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable the necessary tasks to be carried out properly under inter-agency procedures.

3.3 The Governors will ensure that the DSL is given sufficient time to carry out his/ her duties, including accessing training.

3.4 The Governors will review safeguarding practices in the school on a regular basis, and no less than annually, to ensure that:

- The school is carrying out its duties to safeguard the welfare of children at the school.
- Members of staff and volunteers are aware of current safeguarding practices, and that staff receive training where appropriate.
- That all staff have a copy of Part One of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' Statutory Guidance for schools and colleges September 2016, a copy of Bradford Christian Schools safeguarding policy and procedures and a copy of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Child protection is integrated with induction procedures for all new members of staff and volunteers.
- The school follows the procedures agreed by Bradford Safeguarding Children Board.
- Only persons suitable to work with children shall be employed in the school, or work here in a voluntary capacity
- Substantiated safeguarding concerns about a member of staff result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken.
- There is an effective child protection policy that describes procedures which are in accordance with government guidance and refer to locally agreed inter-agency procedures put in place by the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board. That the policy is updated annually and is available publicly on the school website.
- There is a staff code of conduct that includes specific direction relating to the acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media.
- That Bradford Christian School has appropriate safeguarding responses for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to help prevent them going missing in the future.

3.5 **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The designated safeguarding lead for child protection in Bradford Christian School is: **Mrs Zeilah Chadwick**
In her absence, these matters will be dealt with by: **Mr Phill Moon, the deputy DSL.**

3.6 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is key to ensuring that proper procedures and policies are in place and are followed with regard to child safeguarding issues. The DSL will provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters, take part in strategy discussions and interagency meetings, and/or support other staff to do so, and contribute to the assessment of children.

3.7 The school recognises that the DSL must have the status and authority within the school management structure to carry out the duties of the post and they must therefore be a member of the senior management team. All members of staff (including volunteers) will be made aware of who this person is and what their role is. The DSL will act as a source of advice and coordinate action within the school over child protection cases. She will need to liaise with other agencies and build good working relationships with colleagues from these agencies. The DSL is the first person to whom members of staff report concerns. The DSL is responsible for referring cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies according to the procedures established by the BSCB.

3.8 To be effective the DSL will:

- Act as a source of advice, support and expertise within the school and be responsible for coordinating action regarding referrals by liaising with Children's Services and other relevant agencies over suspicions that a child may be suffering harm.
- Cascade safeguarding advice and guidance issued by the BSCB.
- Ensure each member of staff and volunteers at the school, and regular visitors (such as Education Welfare Officers, trainee teachers and supply teachers) are aware of and can access readily, this policy.
- Liaise with the head teacher to inform him/her of any issues and ongoing investigations and ensure there is always cover for the role.
- Ensure that this policy is updated and reviewed annually and work with the designated governor for child protection regarding this.
- Be able to keep detailed accurate secure written records of referrals/concerns, and ensure that these are held in a secure place.
- Ensure parents are aware of the child protection policy in order to alert them to the fact that the school may need to make referrals. Raising parents' awareness may avoid later conflict if the school does have to take appropriate action to safeguard a child.
- Where children leave the school roll, ensure any child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible, separately from the main file, and addressed to the DSL.
- Where a child leaves and the new school is not known, ensure that the local authority is alerted so that the child's name can be included on the database for missing pupils.

3.9 The DSL also has an important role in ensuring all staff and volunteers receive appropriate training. They should:

- Attend training in how to identify abuse and know when it is appropriate to refer a case
- Have a working knowledge of how Bradford Safeguarding Children Board operates and the conduct of a child protection case conference and be able to attend and contribute to these when required.
- Attend any relevant or refresher training courses and then ensure that any new or key messages are passed to other staff, volunteers and governors.
- Make themselves known to all staff, volunteers and governors (including new starters and supply teachers) and ensure those members of staff have had training in child protection. This should be relevant to their needs to enable them to identify and report any concerns to the designated teacher immediately.

4 **Working with other agencies and seeking professional advice**

4.1 The DSL may need to contact Social Services to find out if a child is known to social care, to seek advice

about necessary action, to contact the child's assigned social work team or to make a referral to that team. Where the wellbeing and safety of a child is considered to be at risk, action must be taken. Where suspicions have been aroused, advice from the Initial Contact Point can be sought on what action to take. (See Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Procedures Flowchart).

- 4.2 Schools are not investigating agencies and it is essential that child protection issues are addressed through agreed procedures. However, schools continue to play a role after referral and need to develop strong links with partner agencies particularly social care. Bradford Christian School recognises the importance of multi-agency working and will ensure staff are able to attend all relevant meetings including case conferences, core groups and strategy meetings.

5 Handling information and confidentiality

- 5.1 The school, and all members of staff at the school, will ensure that all data about pupils is handled in accordance with the requirements of the law, and any national and local guidance.
- 5.2 If a child discloses information relating to abuse or neglect this should be handled sensitively. It is important that staff do not promise confidentiality in relation to serious allegations or concerns as staff have a duty of care to inform the DSL. A disclosure from a child may be sudden and unexpected or it may arise from a normal enquiry into a particular incident. On other occasions, disclosure may be through stories or comments, possibly sparked by a particular lesson or TV programme. **It is important that all staff are prepared to receive disclosures from children, to listen to and support them and to report the incident to the DSL. (See Appendix 2 – Child Protection: Everyone's Responsibility and Appendix 4 – Recognising Signs of Abuse)**
- 5.3 Staff who have suspicions but no evidence of abuse or neglect should discuss their concerns with a DSL; the DSL may already be aware of that concern or hold other relevant knowledge. The DSL may need to talk to other staff involved with the child in school, or with professionals working with the child to gain further information or to clarify the concern, e.g. School Nurse, SENCo. Information is only shared on a 'need to know' basis; in other words, where background knowledge of a child's difficulties aids staff to better support them. Any member of staff who has access to sensitive information about a child or the child's family must take all reasonable steps to ensure that such information is only disclosed to those people who need to know.
- 5.4 Regardless of the duty of confidentiality, if any member of staff has reason to believe that a child may be suffering harm, or be at risk of harm, their duty is to forward this information without delay to the DSL. Where any member of staff fails to report concerns about a child, this will be considered as misconduct and dealt with as a disciplinary matter.
- 5.5 Social workers occasionally need to seek information from school when allegations or concerns have been highlighted by other sources. Information about attendance, care and appearance, or changes in behaviour may be sought. It is important to work with children's social care in the best interests of the child. In some cases, a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) form needs to be completed. This enables all agencies working with a student to share information.
- 5.6 Normally, personal information should only be disclosed to the third parties (including other agencies) with the consent of the subject of that information (Data Protection Act 1998, European Convention on Human Rights, Article 8). However, the welfare of the child is paramount (The Children Act 1989) and there may be reasons for not sharing the concerns with the child, their parents or carers prior to making a referral to children's social care. Information may be shared without consent in order to prevent or detect a crime, prevent serious harm to a child or adult, or due to a public interest concern. Bradford Christian School follows the information sharing guidance provided by Bradford Children's Safeguarding Board (BCSB) when considering the sharing of personal information when there is a safeguarding concern.
- 5.7 The law also requires the disclosure of confidential information necessary to safeguard a child or children.

Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, statutory agencies have a duty to co-operate with the Local Authority if a child may be at risk of significant harm. Therefore, if the Police or children's social care are conducting a Section 47 investigation under the 1989 Children Act, staff must share requested information relevant to the investigation.

5.8 When a child or children transfer to a new school, child protection information will be transferred with them.

6.0 **Talking to parents/carers**

6.1 The school's relationship with family is very important and in the interests of the child, every effort must be made to retain a working relationship with the family. Wherever possible, school will seek to work with parents and carers and inform them of action taken. If it is deemed that by informing them of a referral this may put a child in danger, then the referral should go ahead without parental permission. Guidance from children's social care, as the lead agency, can be sought in such situations. (See Appendix 3 – Parental Consent)

7.0 **Keeping written records**

The DSL is responsible for keeping careful and accurate written records. Required details for each child include:

- The date
- The child's name
- Date of birth
- Address
- Nature of any concerns
- Names of people with whom concerns have been discussed.
- All actions, advice and decisions, including those not to proceed with a referral, should be recorded. These notes must be made as soon as reasonably possible after an observation has been made. Written notes serve to build a full and accurate school record and may also be required as factual evidence in any subsequent Court proceedings.

8.0 **Staff – providing a safe working culture**

8.1 Staff and volunteers are in a position of trust. All staff and volunteers must seek to minimise the risk of any situation arising in which children are put at risk, or misunderstandings about their behaviours towards children can occur or be perceived. Staff and volunteers must adhere to this guidance and policies. All the above includes expectations about staff behaviours including outside of the working environment, staff/learner relationships and communications including the use of social media. The school has a duty to ensure that professional behaviour applies to relationships between staff and children, and that all members of staff are clear about what constitutes appropriate behaviour and professional boundaries. At all times, members of staff are required to work in a professional way with children. All staff should be aware of the dangers inherent in:

- working alone with a child
- physical interventions
- cultural and gender stereotyping
- dealing with sensitive information
- giving to and receiving gifts from children and parents
- contacting children through private telephones (including texting), e-mail, MSN, or social networking websites.
- disclosing personal details inappropriately
- meeting pupils outside school hours or school duties.

8.2 Staff are advised to use the following sensible precautions when working alone with children:

- Avoid working in isolation with children unless thought has been given to safeguards
- Work in a room where there is a glass panel in the door or leave the door open

- Make sure that other adults visit the room occasionally
- Do not give children a lift in your car (unless specifically agreed by senior leadership)

8.3 We recognise that staff who become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation stressful and upsetting. We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their anxieties with the DSL and to seek further support as appropriate.

8.4 All school staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child. It is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents and carers to be conducted in view of other adults.

8.5 All staff should be aware of and abide by The Staff Code of Conduct. Guidance about conduct and safe practice, including safe use of mobile phones by staff and volunteers will be given at induction of new members of staff.

8.6 We understand that a student may make an allegation against a member of staff. If such an allegation is made, or information is received which suggests that a person may be unsuitable to work with children, the member of staff receiving the allegation or being made aware of the information, will immediately inform the Head teacher. The Head teacher, on all such occasions, will discuss the content of the allegation with the DSL who will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer. If an allegation is made against the Head teacher, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer, without notifying the Head teacher first. Suspension of the member of staff, excluding the Head teacher, against whom an allegation has been made, needs careful consideration, and the Head teacher will seek the advice of the Local Authority Designated Officer in making this decision. In the event of an allegation against the Head teacher, the decision to suspend will be made by the Chair of Governors with the advice of the Local Authority Designated Officer.

9.0 **Whistleblowing**

9.1 We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. If it becomes necessary to consult outside the school, they should speak in the first instance, to the Local Authority Designated Officer.

9.2 Whistleblowing regarding the Head teacher should be made to the Chair of the Governing Body.

10.0 **Physical Restraint**

10.1 Bradford Christian School acknowledges that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, when a child is endangering themselves or others, may damage property/buildings or compromise the orderly operation of the school. Such events should be recorded and signed by a witness.

10.2 Staff who are likely to need to use physical intervention will be appropriately trained.

10.3 We understand that physical intervention of a nature which causes injury or distress to a child may be considered under child protection or disciplinary procedures.

11.0 **Recruitment (*see Safer Recruitment Policy*)**

11.1 In order to ensure that children are protected whilst at this school, we will ensure that our staff and volunteers are carefully selected, screened, trained and supervised. We accept that it is our responsibility to follow the guidance set out in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" and ensure we meet requirements to have experienced and trained governors in Safer Recruitment, in particular:

- Before appointing someone, ensure that 2 references are obtained, one being from the current

employer.

- Ensure that all staff, governors and volunteers have an enhanced DBS checks before starting work.
- New teaching staff will also require prohibition checks through NCLT.

11.2 In addition, we will ensure that the following checks are satisfactorily completed before a person takes up a position in the school:

- Identity checks to establish that applicants are who they claim to be through birth certificate, passport, new style driving licence etc.
- Academic qualifications, to ensure that qualifications are genuine
- Professional and character references prior to offering employment
- Satisfy conditions as to health and physical capacity
- Previous employment history will be examined and any gaps accounted for.

12.0 **Volunteers**

12.1 We understand that some people otherwise unsuitable for working with children may use volunteering to gain access to children; for this reason, any volunteers in the school, in whatever capacity, will undergo the same checking and security vetting as paid staff.

12.2 Where a parent or other volunteer helps on a one-off basis, he/she will only work under the direct supervision of a member of staff, and at no time have one to one contact with children. However, if a parent or other volunteer is to be in school regularly or over a longer period then they will undergo the same checking and security vetting as paid staff.

12.3 The outcomes of the checks carried out on all adults working in school (staff and volunteers) are held in the Single Central Record, maintained by the School Administrator and the DSL.

13.0 **Induction & Training**

13.1 All new staff and volunteers on day one of their employment to complete a formal induction process that includes safeguarding policies and procedures as well as Health and safety and the staff code of conduct. They will be given an overview of the organisation and ensure they know its purpose, values, services and structure, as well as identifying and reporting abuse, and confidentiality issues.

13.2 All new staff at the school (including volunteers) will receive basic child protection information and a copy of this policy on their first day at the school.

13.3 All staff will be expected to attend training on safeguarding children that will enable them to fulfil their responsibilities in respect of child protection effectively. The school will provide this training through support from the Local Authority.

13.4 Staff will attend refresher training every year, and the DSL every two years.

14.0 **Safeguarding In School**

14.1 As well as ensuring that we address child protection concerns, we will also ensure that children who attend the school are kept safe from harm whilst they are in our charge. To this end, this policy must be seen in light of the school's policies on:

- Sex Education
- Bullying
- Safe recruitment and code of conduct for staff
- Staff use of ICT Equipment and Pupil e-Safety
- Confidentiality
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Health & Safety including appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the

local context

- Fire Risk Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Inclusion and SEN
- First Aid and meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions
- Allegations against members of staff
- Intimate care policy
- Missing child policy

14.2 **Prevent**

We will ensure that all members of staff will be able to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism or support for terrorist ideology. We will ensure that staff are adequately trained and equipped to identify children that may be at risk. The school will act in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board. Finally, we will ensure that suitable internet filtering is in place in order to prevent children accessing extremist material in school.

14.3 **Female Genital Mutilation**

We will ensure that all staff are aware of the existence of procedures which involve partial or total removing of the external female genitalia. Staff will be made aware that this practice together with any other injury to female genital organs is illegal and constitutes a serious form of child abuse. Staff will be made aware of any individuals who are in relevant communities in order to be alert for the possibility of a child being at risk. We will ensure that any concerns will activate local safeguarding procedures and will activate multi agency liaison with police and children's social care.

14.4 **Photographing Children**

We understand that parents like to take photos of or video record their children in the school play, or at sports day, or school presentations. This is a normal part of family life, and we will not discourage parents from celebrating their child's successes. However, if there are Health and Safety issues associated with this - i.e. the use of a flash when taking photos could distract or dazzle the child, and cause them to have an accident, we will encourage parents to use film or settings on their camera that do not require flash. We will not allow others to photograph or film pupils during a school activity without the parent's permission.

14.5 We will not allow images of pupils to be used on school websites, publicity, or press releases, without express permission from the parent, and if we do obtain such permission, we will not identify individual children by name. The school cannot however be held accountable for photographs or video footage taken by parents or members of the public at school functions.

14.6 Members of staff may take photographs of children whilst engaged in school activities for teaching and learning purposes; for assessment purposes or as means of celebrating successes in school.

Safeguarding Procedure Flowchart

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should take the following action upon being informed of
a) suspicion of child abuse,
or
b) discovery of child abuse...

A) Where it is clear that a Child Protection Referral is needed, contact without delay:

Children's Social Care 01274 434343

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) 01274 530434 or 01274 431010

OR

B) Where the DSL is not sure if it is a child protection issue, or where the DSL needs to check children's social care involvement seek advice from:

Initial Contact Point 01274 437500

OR

C) If there is reason to believe that a child is in immediate risk of harm contact:

Police on 999

If asked to monitor the situation, the DSL should make sure they are clear what is expected to be monitored, for how long and to whom information should be reported to.

The DSL must keep a written record of all events and action taken; each entry to this record must be dated and signed. Records must be kept confidential and secure.

Child Protection – Everyone’s Responsibility

Child Protection relates to children who are in need or at risk of abuse. Abuse relates to physical injury, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect or witnessing domestic violence.

What do I do if I suspect that a student is being abused because of:

- Marks/bruising
- Behaviour
- Comments a child has written or said
- Hearsay from others.

Then it is my responsibility to pass on my concerns:

- Tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead by completing the Logging a concern about a child form as soon as possible. This form can be accessed by clicking the link here. [Logging a concern about a child part 1 and annex A.docx](#)
- You do not need to question the child yourself but may make an enquiry if they are clearly upset or their behaviour is of concern.
- Maintain confidentiality – don’t tell others who do not need to know.

If a child tells you he/she has been subject to physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect or has witnessed domestic violence.

- Never agree to keep ‘secrets’/confidentiality even if the child is very persuasive
- Listen carefully to the child and allow them to say what they need to
- Use questions for clarification; avoid leading questions
- Reassure the child that they have done the correct thing by telling someone
- Tell the child that this information must be passed to a DSL
- When the child has finished speaking, write down what has happened using the logging a concern about a child form, [Logging a concern about a child part 1 and annex A.docx](#) , including where possible, the exact words or phrases they used and hand immediately to the DSL.

If I suspect or receive information about any adult who may be abusing a child or children

- Write down what you know and pass it to the DSL.

Designated Safeguarding Lead : Mrs Zeilah Chadwick

Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Mr Phill Moon

Parental Consent

Gaining parental consent may be waived...

- If seeking consent places the child at risk of 'significant harm'.
- When the referring agency has made a professional judgement that a child is at risk of 'significant harm' and seeking consent, or the refusal of consent, is likely to increase the risks to the child, or potentially compromise a child protection investigation.
- To prevent or aid detection of a crime.
- When an authorised worker from a child protection agency wishes to check a child's 'Child Protection Plan'.
- Where professional judgement indicates the need to share information to build up a picture, to indicate that a child is at risk of 'significant harm'.
- Where the child is deemed to be 'Fraser Competent' (Fraser Competency is a legal term used to determine if a child is mature enough to make decisions. It is designed to help balance a child's rights and wishes with our responsibility to keep children safe from harm.) and is refusing consent (contrary to the wishes of their parent/carer) and such refusal places the child at risk of 'significant harm'.

Where the DSL makes a referral without gaining consent of the parent/carer the reason for not doing so must be recorded.

Recognising Signs of Abuse

The signs of child abuse aren't always obvious, and a child might not tell anyone what's happening to them. Children might be scared that the abuser will find out, and worried that the abuse will get worse. Or they might think that there's no-one they can tell or that they won't be believed. Sometimes, children don't even realise that what's happening is abuse. The effects of abuse may be short term or may last a long time - sometimes into adulthood.

Children develop and mature at different rates. So, what's worrying for a younger child, might be normal behaviour for an older child. If a child looks or acts a lot older or younger than their age, this could be a cause for concern. However, if a child develops more slowly than others of a similar age and there's not a cause such as physical or learning disabilities, it could be a sign they're being abused. Long term effects of abuse and neglect include:

- emotional difficulties such as anger, anxiety, sadness or low self-esteem
- mental health problems such as depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), self-harm, suicidal thoughts
- problems with drugs or alcohol
- disturbing thoughts, emotions and memories that cause distress or confusion
- poor physical health such as obesity, aches and pains
- struggling with relationships
- worrying that their abuser is still a threat to themselves or others
- learning difficulties, lower educational attainment, difficulties in communicating
- behavioural problems including anti-social behaviour, criminal behaviour.

Possible signs of physical abuse: -

- Unexplained injuries or burns, particularly if they are recurrent.
- Improbable excuses given to explain injuries.
- Refusal to discuss injuries.
- Untreated injuries
- Admission of punishment which appears excessive.
- Fear of parents being contacted.
- Bald patches
- Withdrawal from physical contact.
- Arms and legs kept covered in hot weather.
- Fear of returning home.
- Fear of medical help.
- Self-destructive tendencies.
- Aggression.

Possible signs of emotional abuse: -

- Physical, mental and emotional development lags.
- Over reaction to mistakes.
- Continual self-deprecation
- Sudden speech disorders.
- Fear of new situations.
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations.
- Neurotic behaviour (e.g. rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking).
- Self-mutilation.
- Fear of parents being contacted.
- Extremes of passivity or aggression.
- Drug or solvent abuse.

- Running away.
- Compulsive stealing or scavenging.

Possible signs of sexual abuse: -

- Sudden changes of behaviour or school performance.
- Displays of affection in a sexual way inappropriate to age.
- Tendency to cling.
- Regression to younger behaviour e.g. thumb sucking, acting like a baby, playing with discarded toys.
- Complaints of genital itching or pain.
- Distrust of a familiar adult, or anxiety about being left with a relative, baby sitter or lodger.
- Unexplained gifts or money.
- Depression and withdrawal.
- Apparent secrecy.
- Chronic illnesses, especially throat infections and venereal disease.
- Anorexia or bulimia.
- Self-mutilation, attempted suicide, frequently running away.
- Unexplained pregnancy.
- Fear of undressing for PE
- Phobias or panic attacks.

Possible signs of neglect: -

- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Constant tiredness.
- Poor state of clothing.
- Emaciation.
- Frequent lateness or nonattendance at school.
- Untreated medical problems.
- Destructive tendencies.
- Low self-esteem.
- Neurotic behaviour (e.g. rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking).
- No social relationships.
- Running away.
- Compulsive stealing or scavenging.

Specific safeguarding issues: -

- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Bullying including cyber bullying.
- Domestic violence.
- Drugs.
- Fabricated or induced illness.
- Faith abuse.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Forced marriage.
- Gangs and youth violence.
- Violence against girls.
- Mental health.
- Private fostering.
- Radicalisation.
- Sexting.
- Teenage relationship abuse.
- Trafficking.