



## Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy

This policy applies all pupils in Weston Green School, including in the EYFS

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# Weston Green School Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Weston Green School fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding its pupils.. Every pupil should feel safe and protected from any form of abuse. This is defined in this policy as any kind of neglect, non-accidental physical injury, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation or emotional ill treatment.

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff and volunteers, is available on Weston Green School's website and is available to parents on request. It applies to all areas of Weston Green School including Early Years (EYFS).

This policy has been written in accordance with:

- i. the DfE guidance document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) (KCSIE)' and the updated guidance provided in the document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015) (WTSC) and 'Early years and later years (under-8s) childcare – Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006' (March 2015)
- ii. Locally agreed inter-agency procedures: Weston Green School will participate as appropriate in 'team around the family' (TAF) approaches, in accordance with WTSC
- iii. The school recognises the importance of early help in school and the difference between a concern and a child in immediate danger; in each case the DSL will work in accordance with the LSCB referral thresholds.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and anyone can make a referral, which will usually be to Weston Green School's Designated Safeguarding Lead, but can be directly to Children's Social Care, if necessary.

Weston Green School aims to:

- Ensure safe recruitment practices in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Develop and implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases or suspected cases of abuse.
- Support a pupil who has been abused in accordance with his or her agreed child protection plan.
- Maintain a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Communicate readily with Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) whenever an allegation or disclosure of abuse has been made.

Weston Green School endeavours to provide a strongly supportive pastoral environment, in which children have a range of adults to whom they can turn, should they have a concern. These include the class teacher, Head of Pastoral Care and the Pastoral Support Adviser. Details of helplines are also available.

## 2. SAFE RECRUITMENT

Weston Green School recognises the importance of following recruitment and selection procedures on the appointment of employees and volunteers which help to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children, or are otherwise unsuited to work with them. Recruitment procedures are carried out in accordance with guidance given in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) (KCSIE)'

To ensure safer recruitment, the procedures are designed to:

- Scrutinise applicants
- Verify identity
- Verify academic or vocational qualifications
- Obtain professional and character references
- Check previous employment history
- Ensure that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job
- Incorporate a face to face interview
- Include a Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) check
- Include an overseas check equivalent to the DBS check for staff appointed directly from overseas.
- Include a prohibition order check (for those who undertake teaching work\*) and also an EEA prohibition check for staff appointed from the EEA other than England (see Safer Recruitment Policy for further detail)
- Include, when required, a self-declaration in respect of the Childcare Disqualification Regulations.

\* 'Teaching work': a definition is provided in The Teachers' Disciplinary (England) Regulations 2012 and cited at paragraph 234 in the ISI Regulatory Handbook. Weston Green School will judge each appointment on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the role includes 'teaching work'.

These procedures apply to all adults who may undertake a regulated activity (unsupervised) with the children in either a paid or voluntary capacity and any other staff where KCSIE requires checks to be undertaken. Weston Green School will verify that child protection checks and procedures listed above have been successfully undertaken for all staff employed by another organisation and who work with Weston Green School's pupils either at Weston Green School or on another site. This applies, for example, to staff at a swimming pool or an outward bound activity centre and to visiting staff running activities or undertaking sports coaching, even where such staff are paid directly by the parents.

It is the responsibility of those who work or volunteer at Weston Green School, or with Weston Green School's pupils at a different venue, to inform the headteacher immediately if, during the time of their engagement with Weston Green School, their circumstances change in such a way that they become disqualified from working in childcare, prohibited from teaching or in any other way barred from working with children.

**Childcare Disqualification Regulations.** Guidance, available separately, has been published by Bellevue in relation to these requirements, covering disqualification from working in childcare, including disqualification by association. Weston Green School will a) inform relevant staff and volunteers about the legislation, including that they may be disqualified by association, b) gather sufficient and accurate information about whether any member of staff in a relevant childcare setting is disqualified, including by association and c) keep a record on the Single Central Register, including the date disqualification checks were completed. If a person is found to be disqualified, he or she will not be able to continue working in a role covered by the regulations. If appropriate, Weston Green School will consider a transfer to other duties. Weston Green School will inform Ofsted (and copy to ISI) if satisfied that a person working in a relevant setting falls within one of the disqualification criteria. If appropriate, Weston Green School and/or Bellevue will assist in the application to Ofsted for a waiver of disqualification.

A copy of the Weston Green School's safer recruitment policy is available on request.

### 3. AWARENESS OF CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

We recognise that, because of their day-to-day contact with children, staff at Weston Green School are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. Weston Green School will therefore

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to
- Ensure that children know there are adults in Weston Green School whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty
- Ensure that staff recognise Weston Green School's duties both to children in need and to children at risk of harm
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse, including keeping safe online, and to know whom to turn to for help
- Include in the curriculum material that will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills
- Ensure all staff, including ancillary staff and representatives of the proprietors, receive comprehensive training on child protection issues, as specified by the local safeguarding children board (SSCB) in frequency and content, not less than every three years supplemented by informal updates as required, but at least annually.
- Ensure that all staff have read and understand at least part 1 of KCSIE. (September 2016); the understanding of staff will be secured by the following measures undertaken by the school
  - Safeguarding Induction Training which talks new staff through the content in a level of depth appropriate and proportionate to the person and their role
  - INSET Training
  - Reminders in Staff Meetings
  - Other means of probing understanding, such as interviews with random staff at the annual Safeguarding Review
- Ensure that all school leaders and staff that work directly with children read the new Annex A of KSCIE 2016 which deal with types of abuse and matters such as children missing education, child exploitation, FGM, radicalisation, forced marriage and honour based violence.
- Ensure that temporary and voluntary staff who work with children are made aware of the arrangements based on a risk based approach – whereby the school assesses the level of detail with which such staff should be provided. In addition, all new staff and volunteers will receive training as part of their induction process, which will include an explanation of the systems to support Safeguarding. To ensure best practice, the Designated Safeguarding Leads for child protection will receive appropriate training, including in inter-agency working, every two years, supplemented by informal updates as required, but at least annually in accordance with locally agreed procedures and the requirements of KCSIE Annex B.

In order to ensure that new staff are fully aware of their duties as regards safeguarding, induction training for all staff must include being given a copy of

- This policy
- The staff code of conduct/behaviour policy (see 10, below)
- The identity of the Designated Safeguarding Leads
- A copy of Part 1 and Annex A of KCSIE (September 2016)
- The whistle-blowing policy

They must also read and sign a copy of the Weston Green School Staff Code of Conduct.

## 4. PROCEDURES

Weston Green School will follow the procedures set out by SSCB and take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE), as noted above. Links to these documents can be found in Appendix 2.

In order to meet the aims of this policy, Weston Green School has the following measures in place:

Weston Green School has a Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for such a role and a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead with a similar level of training to cover in the event of absence. In the event of the Designated Safeguarding Lead being the subject of an allegation, Weston Green School's response will be co-ordinated by the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will liaise with Safeguarding Governor or proprietor.

Steve Wade, Schools Director for Bellevue Education Group, oversees safeguarding arrangements on behalf of the board of directors. Christopher Sanderson, Safeguarding Governor for Bellevue Education Group, is designated by the board to oversee and monitor Weston Green School's safeguarding policy and practice. He conducts an annual Safeguarding Review of Weston Green School's safeguarding policy and procedures and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged. As a result, any deficiencies or weaknesses in safeguarding arrangements will be remedied immediately. The reporting of arrangements for each school form part of the reporting process to the Education Committee, which includes both Mr Wade and Mr Sanderson, which is responsible for the overall governance of Bellevue Schools.

Weston Green School ensures that every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers) know and understand:

- The names of the Designated and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads and their roles
- The responsibility of all staff to be alert to the signs of abuse and their responsibility for referring any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- The procedures identified within Weston Green School policy.

Weston Green School ensures that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on Weston Green School and staff in relation to safeguarding and child protection, by publishing appropriate policies on Weston Green School's website.

Weston Green School ensures that members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to a pupil who may tell of abuse. Weston Green School provides child protection training within the induction programme for all new staff and volunteers. The three-yearly training for staff is provided either by SSCB, an external welfare agency acceptable to SSCB, or those who are Designated Safeguarding Leads within Weston Green School and have up-to-date inter-agency training.

Weston Green School is committed to developing effective links with relevant agencies and cooperating as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters. Weston Green School will deal appropriately and immediately with every suggestion or complaint of abuse. Any allegation or suspicion of abuse, from within or outside Weston Green School, will be managed in accordance with this policy and, in all proper circumstances, will be referred to an external agency for investigation. Weston Green School will not undertake its own investigations of allegations without prior consultation with the LADO(s), or in the most serious cases, the police, so as not to jeopardise statutory investigations. In borderline cases, discussions with the LADO(s) can be held informally and without naming Weston Green School or the individual.

For children in need, a referral will be made to Children's Social Care and for children at risk, a referral will be made to Children's Social Care immediately. They have a duty to respond. Where there is a concern about a member of staff, the referral will be made to the local authority designated officer, or team of officers (LADO) within one working day. Other agencies may be contacted, such as the child protection unit of the police (CPU) or the NSPCC, in accordance with the procedures published by SSCB. If a crime has been committed, the matter will be reported to the police and, in cases of serious harm, the police will be informed from the outset.

When following up incidents, disclosures or allegations, staff will consider the welfare of all children. Where it is deemed necessary to speak with pupils, those involved will be offered the option of having another adult present. Where allegations are of a serious nature, parents or guardians will routinely be invited to attend, unless the allegation is of a nature where their presence may cause greater upset or jeopardise any possible police action.

Weston Green School will maintain written records of concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even when there is no need to refer the matter to the LADO immediately.

Weston Green School ensures that all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in locked locations.

Weston Green School maintains and operates practices which promote this policy and which, so far as possible, ensure that teachers and others who are innocent are not prejudiced by false allegations. In this respect, Weston Green School acknowledges the updated guidance provided in Part 4 of the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016).

Weston Green School ensures safe recruitment practices are carried out and that key staff have undertaken safer recruitment training, this needs to be renewed every five years. All interview panels will include at least one person who has undertaken such training.

Weston Green School takes all practicable steps to ensure that school premises are as secure as circumstances permit.

Weston Green School ensures that the duty of care towards pupils and staff is promoted, by raising awareness of illegal, unsafe and unwise behaviour and assists staff to monitor their own standards and practice.

Weston Green School has a culture of safety and reflective practice, where staff are valued and concerns can be raised, including about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in Weston Green School's safeguarding regime. Its whistleblowing policy is available as part of the employment manual. Staff are made familiar with the policy through staff training. Whistleblowing is covered in Weston Green School's staff code of conduct and its programme of induction for new staff. The Whistleblowing Policy is available separately to those who work or volunteer at the school but are not employees of the school.

Weston Green School operates robust and sensible health and safety and fire protection procedures.

Weston Green School is alert to the medical needs of all children (particularly those with specific requirements).

## **IN THE EVENT OF AN ALLEGATION OR A DISCLOSURE BY A CHILD, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE CONSIDERED:**

### **a) INITIAL COMPLAINT**

A member of staff suspecting, or hearing a complaint of, abuse:

- Must listen carefully to the child and keep an open mind.
- Must not take a decision as to whether or not abuse has taken place.
- Must not ask leading questions, that is, a question which suggests its own answer. "Use the TED Questions" formula below.
- Must reassure the child but not give a guarantee of absolute confidentiality.
- Must explain the need to pass the information to a Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will ensure that the correct action is taken.
- Must keep a sufficient written record of the conversation. The record must include the date, time and place of the conversation and the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence. The record should be signed by the person making it and should use names, not initials.
- Must keep the record secure and hand it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

TED Questions:

**T**ell me about this

**E**xplain what happened

**D**escribe this to me

### **b) PRESERVING EVIDENCE**

All evidence, (for example, scribbled notes, mobile phones containing text messages, clothing, computers), must be safeguarded and preserved.

### **c) REPORTING**

A member of staff needs only reasonable cause for concern in order to act. One sentence from the child, indicating abuse or non-accidental injury, provides staff with reasonable grounds and is sufficient for them to act. This may also apply if clear information comes from a sibling or another adult. However, as many of the signs of child abuse are also commonly associated with other medical, social or psychological problems, a member of staff may naturally wish to discuss some initial concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. All suspicion or complaints of abuse must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or if it involves the Designated Safeguarding Lead to the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will liaise with the Headteacher, (unless the Headteacher is the subject of the suspicion or complaint).

### **d) ACTION BY THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD:**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Safeguarding in Education Team if he or she believes a child may be in need or at risk of significant harm and may follow this up with a written referral to Social Care. If appropriate, the child may well be told what action is being taken and what will happen next. Allegations against someone in a position of trust are the only cases that must be reported to the LADO. If there is room for doubt as to whether a referral should be made, the Designated Safeguarding Lead may consult with appropriate professionals on an informal basis.

Action taken may include:

- Sharing information with the Headteacher, safeguarding governor, schools director or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



- Contacting the parents or carers
- Calling an internal pastoral meeting to discuss the situation – all appropriate persons would be invited (*e.g. class teacher, head of pastoral care, pastoral support adviser*).

At this point a pastoral care plan may be instigated.

The action to be taken will take into account:

- Weston Green School's Safeguarding Policy.
- The procedures published by SSCB
- The nature and seriousness of the suspicion or complaint. Any complaint involving serious harm or a serious criminal offence will always be referred to the Safeguarding in Education Team, the LADO (if the person under suspicion is in a position of trust) and the police without further investigation within Weston Green School.
- The wishes of the pupil, who has complained, provided that the pupil is of sufficient understanding and maturity and properly informed. However, there may be times, if the pupil is suffering or is a risk of suffering significant harm, when the situation is so serious that decisions may need to be taken, after all appropriate consultation, that override a pupil's wishes. The welfare of the child is paramount.
- The wishes of parents, provided they have no interest which is in conflict with the pupil's best interests and that they are properly informed. Again, it may be necessary, after all appropriate consultation, to override parental wishes in some circumstances.
- Any concern from the Designated Safeguarding Lead that disclosing information to parents would put a child at risk. In this case, he or she will take further advice from the relevant professionals before making a decision to disclose.
- Duties of confidentiality, so far as applicable.
- The lawful rights and interests of Weston Green School community as a whole including its employees and its insurers.

#### **e) REFERRAL GUIDELINES**

When deciding whether to make a referral, following an allegation or suspicion of abuse, the head and Designated Safeguarding Lead should not make their own decision over what appear to be borderline cases, but rather the doubts and concerns should be discussed with the Safeguarding in Education Team or Social Care. This may be done tentatively and without giving names in the first instance.

What appears trivial at first can later be revealed to be much more serious, and an allegation of child abuse or neglect may lead to a criminal investigation. Thus Weston Green School should not do anything that may jeopardise a police investigation, such as asking a child leading questions or attempting to investigate the allegations of abuse. However, if sufficient concern develops that a child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, a referral will be made without delay.

Contact will be made with the Safeguarding in Education Team or Social Care within 24 hours of a disclosure being made. If the initial referral is made by telephone, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will confirm the referral in writing within 24 hours of the initial telephone call. If no response or acknowledgment is received within three working days, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Safeguarding in Education Team or Social Care.

## **f) ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF, VOLUNTEERS OR THE HEADTEACHER**

When dealing with allegations against the Headteacher, staff or volunteers, Weston Green School aims to strike a balance between the need to protect children from abuse and the need to protect the Headteacher, staff and volunteers from false or unfounded allegations;

Weston Green School will follow the guidance in Part 4 of the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) (KCSIE).

Suspension will not be an automatic response to an allegation. Full consideration will be given to all the options, subject to the need to ensure the safety and welfare of the pupil or pupils concerned and the need for a full and fair investigation. Where an allegation or complaint is made against the Headteacher, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will report to and consult immediately with the Safeguarding Governor, Schools Director and/or proprietor, according to availability. This will be done without consultation with the Headteacher. The Safeguarding Governor or Schools Director will make immediate contact with the LADO.

Where an allegation or complaint is made against staff, volunteers or the Designated Safeguarding Lead, the Headteacher will be informed or, in his/her absence, the Safeguarding Governor, Schools Director and/or proprietor.

If a decision is taken that a member of staff is suspended during the investigation Weston Green School recognises that this does not infer guilt. Under these circumstances any suspension is a 'neutral' act and no action should be viewed as an expression of opinion or judgement.

In the event of an allegation or complaint resulting in a member of staff being required not to come to school, because of suspension or other arrangements, where Weston Green School provides on-site accommodation for such a member of staff, he or she would be required to live off-site during this time. If it were not possible for offsite accommodation to be sourced by the member of staff, then Weston Green School would ensure suitable accommodation is provided.

In the event of any person (in any capacity) leaving Weston Green School as a result of their being considered unsuitable to work with children, Weston Green School will report this to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) promptly, within one working week. Weston Green School recognises that the proprietors of independent schools have a legal duty to respond to requests from the DBS for information they hold already, but do not have to find it from other sources.

A referral will be made to the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) where a teacher has been dismissed (or would have been dismissed had he/she not resigned) and a prohibition order may be appropriate. The reasons for such a referral include situations where the member of staff has been dismissed for unacceptable professional conduct, conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute or a conviction, at any time, for a relevant offence. Weston Green School need only take this action if the matter has not been reported to the Disclosure and Barring Service; all matters reported to the DBS will be shared with NCTL. A referral to the DBS would be undertaken on the advice of SSCB LADO. Advice about whether an allegation against a teacher is sufficiently serious to refer to the NCTL can be found in 'Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers (October 2015)'. Further guidance is published on the NCTL website.

Weston Green School will follow the guidance in Part 4 of the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) (KCSIE) to ensure that:

- Procedures are applied with common sense and judgement (whereas before schools had to follow the required procedures closely)

- Allegations found to be malicious are removed from personnel records (whereas before all allegations had to be retained)
- Records are kept of all other allegations but any that are not substantiated, are unfounded or malicious should not be referred to in employer references (whereas before details of all allegations had to be passed on in references).

Further detail with regards to the procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff are available from Weston Green School.

### **g) ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PUPILS**

A pupil against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be suspended from Weston Green School during the investigation, as determined by the Headteacher in discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In addition to the procedures in this policy, Weston Green School's policy on behaviour, discipline and sanctions will apply. A bullying incident will be treated as a child protection concern when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm.

The school takes a firm line in relation to possible peer-on-peer abuse. This includes;

- sexting,
- verbal abuse, including when it is passed off as "banter"
- sexual abuse between young people
- gender-based issues.

In relation to such matters procedures as noted in the paragraph above will be followed.

The school ensures that no form of peer abuse is allowed to be dismissed as banter, either by staff or by pupils.

### **h) SUSPECTED HARM FROM OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL**

A member of staff who suspects that a pupil is suffering harm from outside Weston Green School should seek information from the child with tact and sympathy using "open" and not leading questions (see TED questions, in a), above). A sufficient record should be made of the conversation and given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **i) PUPILS WITH SEND**

Children with SEND can face additional Safeguarding challenges and there may be additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. This may include

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood or injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration
- Children with SEND being disproportionately impacted by issues such as bullying without showing any outward signs
- Children with SEND being unable to communicate instances of possible abuse

The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies make specific reference to dealing appropriately with SEND. Staff should be vigilant in relation to the bulleted points above, reporting any concerns to the DSL.

## **5. SUPPORTING THE PUPIL AT RISK**

Weston Green School recognises that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world as benevolent and meaningful. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of self-blame. Weston Green School may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. However, when at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant and they may be withdrawn.

Weston Green School will endeavour to support the child through:

- The content of the curriculum to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- The PSHE programme, through which pupils will, according to their age and stage of development, learn to develop a healthy, safer lifestyle by being able to:
  - Recognise and manage risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly.
  - Judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable.
  - Recognise when pressure from others (including people they know) threatens their personal safety and well-being and develop effective ways of resisting pressure, including knowing when and where to get help.
  - Be assertive to help resist unhelpful pressure.
- Weston Green School ethos, which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- Weston Green School behaviour policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in Weston Green School. Weston Green School will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable and that they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies who support the pupil such as Social Services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- Drawing up a child protection plan, in consultation with other agencies, if appropriate, to identify strategies to assist a child.
- Keeping records and notifying the Safeguarding in Education Team as appropriate, as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern.
- The appropriate transfer of information to the next school or setting when a pupil on the child protection register leaves Weston Green School. If Weston Green School does not know where the pupil has moved to, the LA Designated Officer will be contacted as soon as possible.
- The appropriate transfer of information to a new school or setting when a pupil leaves Weston Green School whenever Weston Green School has recorded child protection concerns.
- When required, Weston Green School will contribute to inter-agency working, as noted in the statutory guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*, providing, for example, an offer of help and/or by contributing towards an inter-agency assessment, in accordance with the Children Act 1989, to ensure a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified. Weston Green School will contribute to inter-agency plans to provide additional support to children subject to child protection plans and will allow access for Children's Social Care from the host local authority and, where appropriate, from a placing local authority, for that authority to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct, a Section 17 or Section 47 assessment. For further information see KCSIE (September 2016), paragraphs 17 and 31 and *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*; (see links in this policy in Appendix 2).

The school recognises the requirement, from October 2015, for teachers\* to report to the police any cases or suspected cases of FGM. In these circumstances, staff will liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (unless there is a reason not to do so), and will inform the police and involve Children's Social Care, as appropriate. At no time will staff examine pupils to confirm this.

\* "Teachers", here refers to anyone undertaking 'teaching work', as defined in The Teachers' Disciplinary (England) Regulations 2012, as explained in paragraph 272 of the ISI commentary on the regulations. This definition includes such persons as teaching assistants, sports coaches and visiting instrumental music staff.

## **6. A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

Weston Green School recognises the need to provide a safe environment in which children can learn and develop. To facilitate this, Weston Green School will:

- Assess school activities and all areas of Weston Green School for risk and keep records.
- Ensure appropriate security at all points of access to the premises
- Not lock internal doors in areas being used by pupils;
- Fit, where possible, glass panels into the doors of classrooms, music practice rooms and other appropriate areas.
- Ensure that all visitors to Weston Green School are required to sign in at reception on arrival. Visitors will be required to wear their identity badges or be issued with school visitor badges upon verification of their identity.
- Ensure that staff are vigilant and will either report unidentified visitors immediately to Weston Green School office or challenge the person directly if safe to do so. At times when the office is closed, staff should alert the Headteacher or other senior staff on duty.
- Be aware that there are occasionally times when large numbers of unknown visitors may be on site (e.g. fixtures, open mornings, plays or concerts). On these occasions, it is not expected that all these visitors will wear badges and only visitors found in areas inappropriate to the event or whose behaviour causes concern will be reported or challenged.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the 'Policy for management, including identification, of visitors into Weston Green School site', as outlined in the 'Health and Safety Policy'

## **7. THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

Weston Green School has appointed an experienced and suitably qualified member of staff with status and authority as Designated Safeguarding Lead to be responsible for matters relating to child protection and welfare and a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead with similar training, to act in their absence and take the lead should an allegation be made against the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The responsibilities of the Designated and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are provided in job descriptions specific to this aspect of their school role.

They include;

- Being conversant with SSCB procedures and the role of other agencies.
- Following Weston Green School's safeguarding & child protection policies and co-ordinating child protection procedures in Weston Green School.
- Being the first point of contact for parents, pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and external agencies in all matters of child protection.
- Consulting with the Safeguarding in Education Team, Social Care or LADO, as appropriate, on issues if an allegation or suspicion occurs and liaising with the various child protection agencies where appropriate.
- Keeping the Headteacher informed of all actions unless the Headteacher is the subject of a complaint. In this situation, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should consult with the Safeguarding Governor, Schools Director or proprietor.
- Co-operating with any police and LADO investigations.
- Liaising with the Headteacher and Safeguarding Governor regarding training for all who work at Weston Green School on child protection issues.
- Attending appropriate higher level training every two years supplemented by informal updates as required, but at least annually.

- Keeping appropriate records, sharing these with agencies as and when appropriate. Data protection considerations must not be a barrier to sharing information where the failure to do so would result in a child being placed at risk of harm.
- Supporting staff.

## 8. HELPING A CHILD WHO WANTS TO TELL YOU ABOUT ABUSE

Staff should remember that the priority is to protect the child:

- Take the matter seriously
- React calmly and listen carefully
- Observe but do not judge
- Don't stop the child who is freely recalling significant events
- Reassure the child that he or she has done the right thing in telling you
- Indicate the action you will take and make it clear that you will have to tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead (you cannot promise confidentiality - no secrets)
- If the child comes back to talk at a later stage, don't comment or advise; ensure that you listen, record and reassure the child.

As a member of staff, it is essential to remember not to:

- Contact the parents yourself
- Interrogate the child or ask leading questions
- Speak to anyone about whom allegations are made, including colleagues
- Promise confidentiality
- Ask a child outright if he or she or others have suffered abuse
- Criticise the alleged perpetrator.

## 9. TEN KEY POINTS TO FOLLOW IF YOU SUSPECT, OR ARE TOLD OF, ABUSE:

The following guidelines, compiled by Dr Roger Morgan OBE (former Children's Rights Director), may be helpful:

Adults looking after children or young people in schools (or in residential establishments or youth organisations) should be aware of the risks of abuse (by adults or other young people), and take steps to reduce those risks. Adults (staff or volunteers) in charge of children or young people should know what to do if they suspect that someone is being abused, or if someone tells them that this is happening. The following key points give a guide on what to do and not to do:

1. Always stop and listen straight away to someone who wants to tell you about incidents or suspicions of abuse.
2. If you can, write brief notes of what they are telling you while they are speaking (these may help later if you have to remember exactly what was said) – and keep your original notes, however rough and even if you wrote on the back of something else, (it's what you wrote at the time that may be important later – not a tidier and improved version you wrote up afterwards). If you don't have the means to write at the time, make notes of what was said as soon as possible afterwards.
3. Do not give a guarantee that you will keep what is said confidential or secret – if you are told about abuse, you have the responsibility to tell the right people to get something done about it (see below). If asked, explain that you are going to tell the people who can provide help, but that you will only tell people who absolutely have to know.
4. Don't ask leading questions that might give your own ideas of what might have happened (e.g. "did he do X to you?") – just ask "what do you want to tell me?" or "is there anything else you want to say". Refer to the TED questions in 4(a) above.

5. Immediately tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead (unless they are themselves accused or suspected of abusing, in which case this must be reported to the headteacher) – don't tell other adults or young people what you have been told.
6. Discuss with the Designated Safeguarding Lead whether any steps need to be taken to protect the person who has told you about the abuse (this may need to be discussed with the person who told you).
7. Never attempt to carry out an investigation of suspected or alleged abuse by interviewing people etc – social services and police staff are the people trained to do this – you could cause more damage and spoil possible criminal proceedings.
8. As soon as possible the Designated Safeguarding Lead should refer the matter to the local social services department (helped by your notes). Follow their requests about what to do next. They will set up any necessary investigations, and can advise you.
9. Never think abuse is impossible in your school or group, or that an accusation against someone you know well and trust is bound to be wrong.
10. Children and young people often tell other young people, rather than staff or other adults, about abuse – make sure that senior young people know how to behave if they suspect, or are told of abuse.

## **10. SAFE WORKING PRACTICE within the CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STAFF**

Staff, volunteers and helpers need to think and act carefully to avoid situations that could lead to difficulties or embarrassment or accusations. The following points are intended to provide some guidance:

- All who work with children must ensure that the children feel equally valued; favouritism, real or inferred, causes feelings of alienation and can be misconstrued.
- Staff who have concerns about the conduct of others, in respect of their engagement with children, should have the confidence that they are safe to raise their concerns and their view will be taken seriously. Staff should refer to and follow the procedures detailed in the whistleblowing policy, found in the employment manual.
- Staff should not take children out on their own and refrain from forming personal relationships exclusively with one individual.
- Staff should take care that any electronic communication with pupils is wholly appropriate, does not constitute a breach of trust and is in accordance with E-safety guidance included in Section 11 of this policy. Staff must not befriend pupils on social networking sites.
- Conversations and behaviour should be friendly but not over familiar. Young people are more comfortable with an adult in role than an adult who seeks to be 'one of the gang'.
- Responsible and appropriate use of authority provides stability and security.
- All children should be treated with dignity and respect in attitude, language use and actions.
- Respect the privacy of the children.
- Avoid questionable activity e.g. rough, sexually provocative games and comments.
- Ensure that correct safeguards are in place to cover 'one to one' situations. This may include individual coaching, instrumental music tuition, administering of first aid, nappy changing, conveying pupils by car etc. One to one situations have the potential to make child more vulnerable to harm by those who seek to exploit their position of trust. Adults working in one to one settings with pupils may also be more vulnerable to unjust or unfounded allegations being made against them.
- Make sure that the only people allowed into an activity are the adults assigned to the group. You should not allow others to have free access unless they have a specific reason e.g. guest speaker, maintenance person.
- Physical contact should reflect the child's need not the adult's.
- Physical contact should be age appropriate and generally initiated by the child not the adult.

- Physical contact should take place only in public.
- Children have the right to decide how much physical contact they have with others, except in exceptional circumstances when they need medical attention.
- Any act of restraint involving physical contact must be recorded in writing and the Headteacher notified immediately. The Headteacher will notify parents on the same day, or as soon as practicable thereafter. In the event the Headteacher is involved this should be passed to the Safeguarding Governor, Schools Director or Proprietor. A record of such incidents will be kept.
- Physical contact must be in accordance with Weston Green School policy on reasonable force and physical restraint, further details of this can be found in Section 14 of this policy, below.
- Staff should monitor one another in the area of physical contact. They should be free to help each other by pointing out anything that could be misunderstood.

More detailed information is available to all staff through the document 'Guidance for safer working practice for adults who work with children and young people', (see Appendix 2) The guidance identifies many key areas where adults can protect themselves from allegations.

## **11.E-SAFETY POLICY**

### **Weston Green School and EYFS**

Weston Green School believes in the educational benefits of curriculum Internet use. Good planning and management that recognises the risks will help to ensure appropriate, effective and safe pupil use. In delivering the curriculum, teachers need to plan to integrate the use of communications technology such as web-based resources and e-mail in order to enable pupils to learn how to locate, retrieve and exchange information using ICT. Computer skills are vital to access life-long learning and for future employment.

Most technologies present risks as well as benefits. Internet use for home, social and leisure activities is expanding and being used by all sectors of society. This brings young people into contact with a wide variety of influences, some of which could be unsuitable. Pupils are enabled through the curriculum to develop the skills needed to evaluate information, to become resilient learners and to understand when and how to alert an adult to anything inappropriate. The school takes seriously its responsibilities within the Prevent strategy and the possibility of radicalisation online. Open communication and understanding are central to resisting this and are fostered within the pupils as they move through KS2.

It is important that schools, as well as parents, adopt strategies for the responsible and safe use of the Internet.

### **Core Principles of Internet Safety**

The Internet has become as commonplace as the mobile phone or TV and its effective use is an essential life-skill. Unmediated Internet access brings with it the possibility placing of pupils in embarrassing, inappropriate and even dangerous situations. This policy aims to help to ensure responsible use and the safety of pupils. It is built on the following five core principles:

#### **Guided educational use**

Significant educational benefits should result from curriculum Internet use including access to information from around the world and the ability to communicate widely and to publish easily. Internet use should be planned, task-orientated and educational within a regulated and managed environment. Directed and successful Internet use will also reduce the opportunities for activities of dubious worth.



## **Risk assessment**

21<sup>st</sup> Century life presents dangers including violence, racism and exploitation from which children and young people need to be protected. At the same time they need to learn to recognise and avoid these risks – to become “Internet Wise”. Pupils need to know how to cope if they come across inappropriate material.

## **Responsibility**

Internet safety depends on staff, schools, governors, advisers, parents and, where appropriate, the pupils themselves taking responsibility for the use of Internet and associated communication technologies. The balance between education for responsible use, regulation and technical solutions must be judged carefully.

It is acknowledged that, whilst Weston Green School provides pupils with a protected environment for Internet usage in school, the pupils may not benefit from the same level of protection in their access to the Internet beyond the confines of Weston Green School. Important aspects of Weston Green School's e-safety provision are, therefore, the development of the pupils' understanding of keeping safe online when not at school, and supporting parents in understanding how to help keep their children safe online.

The **headteacher** is responsible for ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe environment for internet use, for the implementation of policy and for the development of the pupils' understanding of how to keep themselves safe online, both in and out of school.

**The Computing Manager** is responsible for the maintenance of hardware and software systems and technology to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, safe use of the internet.

**The Computing Co-ordinator** is responsible for overseeing the successful development, both in computing lessons and the wider curriculum and extra-curricular activities, of pupils' understanding of how to keep safe online and for supporting staff in implementing this objective.

**All staff and volunteers** are responsible for monitoring pupils' safety online and reporting any concerns arising from pupils' internet use, either at school or at home, and for supporting the development of the pupils' understanding of how to keep themselves safe online.

## **Regulation**

The use of a limited and expensive resource, which brings with it the possibility of misuse, must be regulated. In some cases access within school is denied, for instance unmoderated chat rooms present immediate dangers and are banned. Fair rules, clarified by discussion and prominently displayed help pupils make responsible decisions for both school and home access.

## **Appropriate strategies**

This document describes strategies to help to ensure responsible and safe use. They are based on limiting access, developing responsibility and on guiding pupils towards educational activities.

There are no straightforward or totally effective solutions and staff, parents and the pupils themselves must remain vigilant.

## **1) The Importance of Internet Use**

- The purpose of Internet use in school is to raise educational standards, to promote pupil achievement, to support the professional work of staff and to enhance Weston Green School's management information and business administration systems.
- Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and pupils.
- The Internet is an essential element in 21<sup>st</sup> Century life for education, business and interaction. Weston Green School has a duty to provide students with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience.

## **2) How the Internet benefits education**

Benefits of using the Internet in education include:

- access to world-wide educational resources including museums and art galleries;
- educational and cultural exchanges between pupils world-wide;
- cultural, vocational, social and leisure use in libraries, clubs and at home;
- access to experts in many fields for pupils and staff;
- staff professional development through access to national developments, educational materials and good curriculum practice;
- communication with support services, professional associations and colleagues;
- improved access to technical support including remote management of networks.

## **3) How Internet use enhances learning**

- Weston Green School Internet access is designed expressly for pupil use and will include filtering appropriate to the age of pupils.
- Pupils will be taught what is acceptable and what is not acceptable and given clear objectives for Internet use.
- Internet access will be planned to enrich and extend learning activities. Access levels will be reviewed to reflect the curriculum requirements and age of pupils.
- Staff will guide pupils in online activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the pupils' age and maturity.
- Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location and retrieval.

## **4) Pupils' understanding of how to keep safe online**

Weston Green School develops the pupils' understanding of how to keep safe online, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, and their resilience in protecting themselves and their peers in the following ways:

- Through regular discussion and work in computing lessons with the Computing Co-ordinator.
- Through regular e-safety training delivered by appropriate professionals (eg from Childnet)
- Through information clearly displayed on the trolleys containing the laptops/ i-pads as well as the Computing board.
- In KS2, through reading with parents and signing the Weston Green KS2 E-safety Policy.
- In KS2, through pupils reading and agreeing to the Acceptable Use of Technology policy.
- Through initiatives organised by the E-safety Committee and the support of KS2 Digital Leaders.

## **5) Pupils' Evaluation of Internet content**

Inappropriate material should not be visible to pupils using the Web. This is not easy to achieve and cannot be guaranteed. It is a sad fact that pupils may be confronted with inappropriate material, despite all attempts at filtering. Pupils will be taught what to do if they experience material that they find distasteful, uncomfortable or threatening. For example, to close the page and report the URL to the teacher or Computing Co-ordinator for inclusion in the list of blocked sites. More often, pupils will be judging reasonable material but selecting that which is relevant to their needs, for instance to answer a homework question. Pupils should be taught research techniques including the use of subject catalogues and search engines. They will be encouraged to question the validity, currency and origins of information – key information handling skills. They should also use alternative sources of information for comparison purposes. Effective guided use will reduce the opportunity pupils have for exploring unsavoury areas. Using Internet derived materials in pupils' own work requires at least an understanding that straight copying is worth little without a commentary that demonstrates the selectivity used and evaluates significance. Respect for copyright and intellectual property rights, and the correct usage of published material needs to be taught.

- If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites, the URL (address) and content must be reported to the Internet Service Provider via the Computing Co-ordinator.
- The use of Internet derived materials by staff and by pupils in school must comply with copyright law.
- Pupils are taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.
- Pupils will be taught to acknowledge the source of information and to respect copyright when using Internet material in their own work.

## **6) Management of e-mail**

- Pupils do not have personal school email accounts.
- They may only use approved e-mail accounts on Weston Green School system when supervised by a member of staff for a specific purpose (eg School Council members on official School Council business)
- Access in school to external personal e-mail accounts is not allowed

## **7) Management of Website content**

- The point of contact on the Website is Weston Green School address/school e-mail and telephone number.
- Staff or pupils' home information will not be published.
- Website photographs that include pupils will be selected carefully and will not enable individual pupils to be identified.
- Pupils' full names will not be used anywhere on the Website, particularly associated with photographs.
- Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained before photographs of pupils are published on Weston Green School Website.
- The copyright of all material must be held by Weston Green School, or be attributed to the owner where permission to reproduce has been obtained.
- Weston Green School undertakes appropriate measures for the management of personal data which is stored electronically.

## **8) Newsgroups and chat**

- Pupils will not be allowed access to public or unregulated chat rooms in school.

- Newsgroups will not be made available unless an educational requirement for their use has been demonstrated.
- A risk assessment will be carried out before pupils are allowed to use a new technology in school.

#### **9) Management of emerging Internet uses**

- Emerging technologies will be examined for educational benefit and a risk assessment will be carried out before use in school is allowed.

#### **10) Authorisation for Internet access**

- At EYFS and Key Stage 1, access to the Internet will be by adult demonstration and with directly supervised access to specific, approved on-line materials.
- In KS2, pupils will read and sign the KS2 E-safety Policy.

#### **11) Liaison and partnership with parents**

- Parents have access to Weston Green School's e-safety policy on Weston Green School website and can request a paper copy from Weston Green School office.
- Parents will be informed that pupils will be provided with supervised Internet access.
- Parents and pupils will be asked to sign and return a consent form.
- Parents and pupils in KS2 will be asked to sign and return a consent form.
- Periodically Weston Green School runs e-safety information meetings for parents, which may involve an external speaker, in order to raise their awareness of e-safety matters and help them develop their children's safe use of the Internet.
- Copies of template agreements for children and parents are found in Appendix 3 of this policy.

#### **12) Assessing the risks of Internet Use and Management of filtering**

- In common with other media such as magazines, books and video, some material available via the Internet is unsuitable for pupils. Weston Green School will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users access only appropriate material. However, due to the international scale and linked nature of Internet content, it is not possible to guarantee that unsuitable material will never appear on a school computer.
- Methods to identify, assess and minimise risks will be reviewed regularly.
- The head teacher will ensure that the Internet policy is implemented and compliance with the policy monitored.
- Weston Green School will work in partnership with parents, the DfE and our Internet Service Provider to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved.
- The school will ensure that appropriate IT filters and monitoring procedures are in place to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate material online without unreasonable 'over blocking'
- As part of the above the school should consider carefully how to manage the access to 3G and 4G on the school premises; this does not mean banning mobile devices, schools should consider how mobile phone use is managed and how filters may be supplemented with behaviour management

#### **13) Introduction of the policy to pupils**

- Rules for Internet access will be posted near all computer systems.
- Pupils will be informed that Internet use will be monitored.

- Instruction in responsible and safe use should precede Internet access.

#### **14) Staff consultation and training**

- The school will ensure that all staff have undertaken appropriate e-safety training.
- All staff must have familiarised themselves fully with this policy before using any Internet resource in school.
- All staff, including teachers, supply staff, classroom assistants and support staff, will be provided with Weston Green School Internet Policy, and its importance explained.
- Staff development in the safe and responsible Internet use, and on school Internet policy will be provided as required. Induction safeguarding training for new staff includes e-safety.

#### **15) Technical provision, filters, safeguards and monitoring**

- Smoothwall – provides filtering and monitoring of internet activity, websites and searches.
- Sophos – provides anti-virus software

#### **16) Maintenance of ICT system security**

- Weston Green School ICT systems will be reviewed regularly with regard to security in conjunction with ABAQ Information Technologies.
- Virus protection will be installed and updated regularly by ABAQ Information Technologies.
- Memory sticks and other such portable storage devices may be brought into school when specific permission has been given.
- Unapproved system utilities and executable files will not be allowed in pupils' work areas or attached to e-mail.

Copies of templates for Children and Parents are found in Appendix 3 of this policy

## **12. MOBILE PHONES AND CAMERAS POLICY**

### **1. Use of Cameras and the manipulation and storage of images**

In this policy terms such as 'photography', 'pictures', 'images', 'camera', 'device' and 'digital technology' include both still and video media. The term 'camera' includes mobile phones, ipads and other equipment which has the capacity to take photographs.

At Weston Green School we recognise that the appropriate use of photography enhances many aspects of school life and the pupils' education. Mobile phone technology has become more sophisticated over recent years and will continue to evolve. Wireless connections in particular, extend the capabilities of mobile phones further; which allow access to new content and services, such as the internet, social networking sites and instant messaging. Many mobile phones offer camera, video and audio recording as standard. Mobile phones, alongside other technologies aim to change the way we communicate. This speed of communication often provides security and reassurance; however, as with any other form of technology, there are associated risks.

This policy is intended to ensure an environment in which children, parents and staff are safe from images being recorded and inappropriately used by providing

a clear framework to ensure that

- the use of cameras and the storage of images reflect good practice
- the safeguarding needs of the pupils are met
- staff are not distracted from their work with children.

The policy also recognises that learning to use digital technology is an important part of the ICT curriculum. Teaching needs to ensure that pupils are able to learn how to use digital cameras and to edit and store photographs with an understanding of safeguarding requirements, for themselves and others, which is appropriate for their age and taking due account of the cyber-bullying aspects of Weston Green School's anti-bullying policy. Reference should also be made to Weston Green School's E-Safety Policy (see Section 12 above) policy and planning for the internet safety topic in the ICT/PSHE scheme of work.

Photography is used at Weston Green School for a variety of purposes, including:

- Recording pupils' achievements, learning and progress.
- Contributing to each pupil's development file/profile.
- Providing evidence to support pupils' application for entrance/scholarship to their future schools.
- Recording school events and providing material for displays.
- Communication with parents, for example to help reassure new parents or carers of young children that they have settled well into school life and provide prompt information on their children's activities on residential trips.
- For publicity purposes (brochures, prospectus, media articles, website etc.) for both Weston Green School and Bellevue Education Group.
- To support work undertaken by members of staff or students on placements for training and gaining further qualifications.

On their child's admission to Weston Green School, parents are asked to sign a consent form in relation to their child being photographed at school or during school events. The form provides for parents to give permission at different levels (for example to consent to their child being photographed to record achievement and progress, but not for publicity purposes. The form also gives parents the opportunity to state whether a child in a photograph can be named. A copy of the consent form can be found at Appendix 4.

Responses to the photography consent form are collated and the summary can be consulted in the Weston Green School office. It is important that staff familiarise themselves with this information. If parents withhold consent for certain aspects of photography in relation to their child, this must be respected. Images should be checked to determine whether photographs have been taken which inadvertently include pupils for whom consent has not been given. If this is the case, images should be destroyed, cropped or otherwise edited to ensure that parental consent is respected. If an image is edited for this reason, the original must be destroyed.

Periodically, professional photographers visit Weston Green School by arrangement to take portrait photographs and formal pictures of sports teams etc. Care should be taken that parental consent is respected and also that parents have not unintentionally withheld consent regarding such photographs. Any areas of doubt should be discussed with the Headteacher, who will arrange for parents to be contacted as appropriate. It is not compulsory for pupils to be included in portrait and team photography, nor is there any obligation on parents to purchase the resulting photographs.

From time to time a teacher, student or trainee teacher on placement may undertake a case study of a child, for example, as part of a training course to gain a qualification. In such situations, parental consent with regard to photography must be respected. Case studies will only be undertaken following prior written consent from the parent or carer and, except by prior arrangement between the Headteacher and the parent/carers, the child's name will be changed in the case study to protect his or her identity.

Occasionally a photograph may be taken which inadvertently catches a pupil in an unfortunate, embarrassing or compromising position. If this is the case, the image and any copies of it must be destroyed immediately.

### **Photography by parents**

It is very difficult to police the use of cameras by parents, for example at school events such as concerts, Speech Day or sports fixtures. However, if members of staff have concerns about the suitability of photography by parents, they should consult the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the Headteacher, who will consider the situation with reference to this policy and Weston Green School's safeguarding procedures and take appropriate action. Concerns will be taken seriously, logged and investigated appropriately.

The parents' handbook includes guidelines for parents on the use of photography at school events.

Any parent who works at Weston Green School, for example as a volunteer, must abide by this policy. The teacher responsible (for example the Trip Leader for an educational visit which uses parent volunteers) must ensure that the parents involved are aware of this policy and abide by it.

If parents wish to make a video recording of a school event (nativity, concert, drama production etc), prior permission must be obtained from the headteacher, who will consider the situation with respect to this policy and the levels of consent given by parents of other children involved. Since it is difficult to ensure that parental consent is respected in these situations, and not appropriate to share the details of consent given for particular children with other parents, the headteacher may refuse permission for a video recording of the event to be made. As an alternative, Weston Green School may make an official video recording/DVD, the editing of which, before it is made available to parents, will ensure that parental consent is respected.

### **Use of equipment**

Except with specific permission from the Headteacher, staff may not use their own cameras, phones or other equipment to take pictures in school or at school events. School cameras are available for this purpose. Cameras should be signed out and back in when used. Please ensure that batteries are recharged as appropriate for the next user. Users bringing personal devices in to Weston Green School must ensure there is no inappropriate or illegal content on the device. Staff must ensure that this policy is observed when using other equipment which can be used in connection with photographs (photocopier, scanner, printer, ipads etc.)

### **Editing and storage of photographs**

All images taken by members of staff or volunteers at school or on school activities remain the property of Weston Green School. Weston Green School may require images to be deleted or edited as appropriate and may also select images taken by members of staff or volunteers for other purposes, with due attention paid to the requirements of this policy.

When editing images, staff must take due professional care and ensure that edited images do not mislead or misrepresent. Care must also be taken to ensure that images do not result in their subject being vulnerable to embarrassment, teasing, bullying or abuse.

Close attention must be paid to the storage of images, particularly whilst kept on portable media such as flash cards and memory sticks. Staff are responsible for the security of such media and the images they contain and must take all reasonable measures to ensure that they are kept safe and do not come into the possession of unauthorised people.

Images must at all times be kept on school equipment and storage media and not transferred to personal devices or internet storage facilities

Permission may be granted by the Headteacher for a member of staff to use a personal camera for a specific purpose (eg to provide high quality photos of an event). Such photos must be transferred to Weston Green School photograph archive at the earliest opportunity and must be deleted from the camera before it is taken off Weston Green School premises.

All images must be stored permanently only in Weston Green School's photograph archive on Weston Green School intranet (except where they form part of other approved school documentation, such as a record of achievement, display, brochure or official website). Staff are aware of the rules regarding images of pupils and are responsible for self-checking all images for appropriateness, deleting any which may be misleading and seeking advice from the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead if required.

To maintain security and enable subsequent users to work effectively, images on flash cards and other portable media must be deleted once they have been transferred. Similarly, where cameras have the capacity to save images without the need for a removable card, these must be deleted after use.

Unless specific prior consent has been obtained, members of staff and volunteers must not post school images on personal pages of social networking sites or other websites. The use of images on Weston Green School's official Facebook page, website and other approved sites is carefully monitored by the Headteacher to ensure that it is in line with this policy and parental consent. The age limit for having a Facebook account is 13 and other social networks have similar restrictions. However, parents do not always enforce these restrictions. Staff must be vigilant in respect of any inappropriate use by pupils of school images or their own photographs of school events on social networks and must report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for liaising with the chair of the parents' association (or other delegated member of the association) to ensure familiarity with this policy and that images used on the association's website and in newsletters and other literature and media abide by this policy and respect the levels of consent given by parents in respect of photography.

Final responsibility for the appropriate use of photography at school and in connection with school events rests with the headteacher and the child protection officer. They monitor school images and may require an image to be deleted, edited or removed from a particular document, website etc in accordance with the requirements of this policy.

Weston Green School assesses the risk of access to archived images by inappropriate individuals to be very low. Staff and volunteers must ensure that their use and storage of images maintains a similarly acceptable level of risk.

### **Use of mobile phones by members of staff and by volunteers in school**

Mobile phones provide many benefits to school life, notably in improving health and safety through better communication with staff in more remote parts of Weston Green School campus and on off-site visits. However, mobile phones, particularly those capable of taking pictures, also present a challenge to Weston Green School community to ensure that pupils are safeguarded in relation to the potential for improper use and also that their education is not impeded by the use of mobile phones at inappropriate times.



Staff must be vigilant to ensure that the use of mobile phones, including their use by volunteers, visitors and pupils is always appropriate and that the safeguarding needs of the pupils are met. Any concerns should be discussed with the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead. Concerns will be taken seriously, logged and investigated appropriately. Where a member of staff, visitor, volunteer or pupil has a mobile phone with the facility to take pictures, its use is subject to the policy on the use of cameras and the manipulation and storage of images, above.

- On arrival at school staff should switch their phones off to ensure that they do not adversely affect their duties at school and the pupils' education.
- In cases of emergency (for example a seriously ill relative) mobile phones should be left in the office, office staff should be alerted and the phone can be left switched on so that a message can be relayed.
- Staff may use their phone at break times and lunch time provided that (i) pupils are not present, (ii) they are not on duty and (iii) this does not prevent them from responding to a request for assistance from another member of staff or other aspects of their professional duties.
- Weston Green School nurse/lead first aider, maintenance man and headteacher are exempt from the restrictions on the use of mobile phones whilst on duty so that they can be contacted at all times by Weston Green School office in case of emergency.
- For safeguarding reasons, school mobile phones are not equipped with cameras.
- School mobile phones are available from Weston Green School office. A school phone must be collected by members of staff engaged in particular school activities where it is important to maintain communication with Weston Green School office. These include:
  - Use of local offsite facilities – swimming pool, sports facilities, theatre, church,
  - Educational visits and away sports fixtures
  - Situations where, by prior arrangement with the headteacher, a single member of staff is directly responsible for a group of pupils and a second member of staff is “on call” nearby.
- School mobile phones should not be used for personal calls. After use they must be signed back in at Weston Green School office. Any problem with the phone should be reported as soon as possible.
- By arrangement with the headteacher, a member of staff's personal mobile phone may be designated as the means of communication for specific activities (ie those listed above). In such situations, it is expected that this policy will be observed in respect of personal use. The cost of calls made on school business will be reimbursed, provided that they can be identified on an itemised bill or otherwise.
- The use of mobile phones by staff whilst on school duties must respect national legislation and common courtesies. For example, they must not be used whilst driving and should be switched to silent at events and venues where this is expected.
- Weston Green School assesses the risk to pupils through the improper use of mobile phones to be very low. Staff and volunteers must ensure that their use of mobiles phones maintains this level of risk.

### **13. USE OF REASONABLE FORCE AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

#### **1. The Legal Framework**

Physical Restraint should be limited to emergency situations and used only in the last resort. Under the Children Order 1995, it is only permissible as described under the heading "Physical Control". Article 4 of the Education Order 1998 clarifies powers that already exist in common law. It enables teachers and other members of staff in Weston Green School,

authorised by the Headteacher, to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances, to prevent a pupil from:

- Committing an offence
- Causing personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil himself)
- Engaging in any behaviour prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline at Weston Green School or among its pupils, whether during a teaching session or otherwise. (Examples of possible situations are given in Section 6) This policy draws on 'Use of reasonable force; Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies' published by the DfE in July 2013.

## **2. Definition of restraint at Weston Green School**

Physical restraint is the positive application of force with the intention of protecting the child from harming himself or others or seriously damaging property.

### **2:1 General policy aims**

Staff at Weston Green School recognise that the use of reasonable force is only one of the last in a range of strategies available to secure pupil safety/well-being and also to maintain good order and discipline. Our policy on restraint should therefore be read in conjunction with our Behaviour and Child Protection policies.

### **2:2 Specific aims of the restraint policy**

- To protect every person in Weston Green School community from harm.
- To protect all pupils against any form of physical intervention that is unnecessary, inappropriate, excessive or harmful.
- To provide adequate information and training for staff so that they are clear as to what constitutes appropriate behaviour and to deal effectively with violent or potentially violent situations.

## **3. Why use restraint?**

Physical restraint should avert danger by preventing or deflecting a child's action or perhaps by removing a physical object, which could be used to harm him/herself or others. It is only likely to be needed if a child appears to be unable to exercise self-control of emotions and behaviour. It is not possible to define every circumstance in which physical restraint would be necessary or appropriate and staff will have to exercise their own judgement in situations which arise within the above categories. Staff should always act within Weston Green School's policy on behaviour and discipline, particularly in dealing with disruptive behaviour. Staff should be aware that when they are in charge of children during Weston Green School day, or during other supervised activities, they are acting in loco parentis and should, therefore, take reasonable action to ensure pupils' safety and wellbeing. Failure to physically restrain a pupil who is subsequently injured or injures another, could, in certain circumstances, lead to an accusation of negligence. At the same time, staff are not expected to place themselves in situations where they are likely to suffer injury as a result of their intervention.

### **3.1 Alternative strategies**

There are some situations in which the need for physical restraint is immediate and where there are no equally effective alternatives (eg is a pupil is about to run across a road). However, in many circumstances there are alternatives e.g. use of assertiveness skills such as:

- the broken record in which an instruction is repeated until the pupil complies

- use of a distracter, such as a loud whistle, to interrupt the behaviour (such as a fight) long enough for other methods of verbal control to be effective
- withdrawal of attention (audience) e.g. if an action such as damage to property is threatened
- other techniques designed to defuse the situation, such as the avoidance of confrontation, or use of humour (in these cases the incident can be dealt with later when emotions are no longer running high)
- the employment of other sanctions consistent with Weston Green School's policy on behaviour.

### 3.3 Use of physical restraint

Physical restraint should be applied as an act of care and control with the intention of re-establishing verbal control as soon as possible and, at the same time, allowing the pupil to regain self-control. It should never take a form which could be seen as a punishment. Staff are authorised to use reasonable force only in applying physical restraint, although there is no absolute definition of this, as what constitutes reasonable force depends upon the particular situation and the pupil to whom it is being applied. However, as a general rule, only the force necessary to stop or prevent the behaviour should be used, in accordance with the guidelines below.

There are some forms of physical intervention, which may involve minimal physical contact, such as blocking a pupil's path or the staff member physically interposing him or herself between the pupil and another pupil or object. However, in some circumstances, direct physical contact may be necessary. In all circumstances other methods should be used if appropriate or effective physical restraint should be a last resort.

When physical restraint becomes necessary:

#### DO

- Tell the pupil what you are doing and why
- Use the minimum force necessary
- Involve another member of staff if possible
- Tell the pupil what s/he must do for you to remove the restraint (this may need frequent repetition)
- Use simple and clear language
- Hold limbs above a major joint if possible e.g. above the elbow
- Relax your restraint in response to the pupil's compliance

#### DON'T

- Act in temper (involve another staff member if you fear loss of control)
- Involve yourself in a prolonged verbal exchange with the pupil
- Attempt to reason with the pupil
- Involve other pupils in the restraint
- Touch or hold the pupil in sexual areas
- Twist or force limbs back against a joint
- Bend fingers or pull hair
- Hold the pupil in a way which will restrict blood flow or breathing e.g. around the neck
- Slap, punch, kick or trip up the pupil.

### 3.4 Actions after an incident

Physical restraint often occurs in response to highly charged emotional situations and there is a clear need for debriefing after the incident, both for the staff involved and the pupil. **The Headteacher or Deputy Head should be informed of any incident as soon as possible** and will take responsibility for making arrangements for debriefing once the situation has stabilised. An appropriate member of the teaching staff should always be involved in debriefing the pupil involved and any victims of the incident should be offered support, and

their parents informed on the same day by the headteacher (see below). A copy of the form in Appendix 5 must be completed by the member of staff involved and any adult witnesses on the same day as the incident and passed to the person reviewing the incident. In incidents where a member of SLT or the Headteacher is involved the Safeguarding Governor or a member of Governance must be informed.

If the behaviour is part of an ongoing pattern it may be necessary to address the situation through the development of a behavioural EHC plan, which may include an anger management programme, or other strategies agreed by the SENCO. It is also helpful to consider the circumstances precipitating the incident to explore ways in which future incidents can be avoided. All incidents should be recorded immediately. All sections of this report should be completed so that in the event of any future complaint a full record is available. The Headteacher (or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Head) will contact parents as soon as possible after an incident, normally on the same day, to inform them of the actions that were taken and why, and to provide them with an opportunity to discuss it.

#### **4 Risk Assessments**

If Weston Green School becomes aware that a pupil is likely to behave in a disruptive way that may require the use of reasonable force, Weston Green School will plan how to respond if the situation arises. Such planning will address:

- Management of the pupil (e.g. reactive strategies to de-escalate a conflict, holds to be used if necessary)
- Involvement of parents to ensure that they are clear about the specific action Weston Green School might need to take
- Briefing of staff to ensure they know exactly what action they should be taking (this may identify a need for training or guidance)
- Identification of additional support that can be summoned if appropriate.

#### **5 Complaints**

A clear restraint policy, adhered to by all staff and shared with parents, should help to avoid complaints from parents. It is unlikely to prevent all complaints, however, and a dispute about the use of force by a member of staff might lead to an investigation, either under disciplinary procedures or by the Police and social services department under child protection procedures. It is our intention to inform all staff, pupils, parents and governors about these procedures and the context in which they apply.

#### **6. When might it be appropriate to use reasonable force?**

Examples of situations that may require restraint are when:

- a pupil attacks a member of staff, or another pupil
- pupils fighting
- a pupil is causing, or at risk of causing, injury or damage by accident, by rough play, or by misuse of dangerous materials, substances or objects
- a pupil is running in a corridor or on a stairway in a way in which he/she might have or cause an accident likely to injure her/himself or others
- a pupil absconding from a class or trying to leave school (NB this will only apply if a pupil could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or at school)
- a pupil persistently refuses to obey an order to leave an area
- a pupil behaves in such a way that seriously disrupts a lesson.

#### **Acceptable Physical Contact**

It is inappropriate to rule out all forms of physical contact between adults and pupils in school. In many circumstances, particularly with younger pupils, physical contact is important in providing comfort, reassurance and trust. It is important, therefore, that

acceptable parameters for physical contact are understood and followed. Staff should be careful that their actions do not to misinterpretation, making themselves vulnerable to accusations of inappropriate contact. In this context, this section should be read in conjunction with Section 10 (Safe Working Practice) of this policy and also the Bellevue employment manual.

#### General Principles:

- Physical contact should always be a response to the needs of the child, not the adult and should last only as long as is necessary
- It should take place only with the child's clear consent
- Adults should be aware of any religious or cultural practices or beliefs which may influence whether physical contact is acceptable
- Aspects of the curriculum, such as coaching in sport, music, drama and dance, may be more effectively taught through strategies which involve physical contact. However, these should be undertaken in a public arena, such as a class situation, and not in one-to-one tuition.

#### Specific Considerations

- The administration of first aid or medication may necessitate contact proximate to intimate areas of the body. In such circumstances, administration should be undertaken in a manner which respects the dignity of the patient by someone who is suitably qualified. Except with the youngest children, and thereafter, in accordance with age-appropriate expectations, administration should preferably be undertaken by someone of the same gender and a second adult should be present.

## **14. RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM: THE 'PREVENT' STRATEGY**

The school is committed to supporting the 'Prevent' strategy in relation to radicalisation and extremism. It works to prevent children being drawn into supporting extremist ideas and terrorist ideology and to help them develop resilience to radicalisation. The Bellevue Safeguarding Governor is the governance committee's 'Prevent lead person' and the designated safeguarding lead is the nominated member of staff to be the 'Prevent lead person' in school. The school undertakes the following measures in relation to the 'Prevent Strategy':

- 'Prevent' is considered carefully as part of the school's safeguarding procedures
- All staff and volunteers undertake training in respect of 'Prevent'
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes a higher level of 'Prevent' training in order to support staff, engage effectively with external agencies and follow reporting and information sharing protocols appropriately
- 'Prevent' is considered carefully in the appointment of new staff, volunteers and contractors and in the admitting of visitors and visiting speakers to the school
- 'Prevent' is a topic for governance, staff and SLT meetings
- There is a clear referral route through the Designated Safeguarding Lead to 'Channel'
- The school strongly promotes fundamental British values in curricular and extra-curricular activities and the promotion of the school's ethos and aims.
- The school will work as required with other agencies, including the LADO, LSCB, Children's Services and 'Channel' with regard to the 'Prevent' agenda
- Computer systems have appropriate levels of filtering to ensure, insofar as is possible, that terrorist and extremist material is suitably controlled
- The school provides internet safety training for pupils, parents and staff and pupils are strongly supported to enable them to use the internet safely

- PSHE lessons, assemblies and other areas of the curriculum and extra-curricular programme include topics to help develop pupils' resilience to radicalisation.

## **15. VETTING VISITING SPEAKERS**

The school is aware of the potential risk to children through exposure to views of visiting speakers whose presentations may include material of an extremist nature or which contradicts the school's commitment to provide pupils with a balance of opposing political views. Accordingly, the school undertakes a range of measures to vet the content of presentations by visiting speakers. The level of checking will be determined by an assessment of the likely level of risk and may include the following measures:

- The visiting speaker will be asked to provide assurance that the content of the presentation does not include material of a radicalising or extremist nature and is not in any other way inappropriate for the pupils involved.
- Presentations, such a PowerPoint, will be required in advance and will be checked by the member of staff responsible and discussed with the speaker
- Visiting speakers will always be accompanied. A member of staff will attend presentations to pupils and will be prepared to intervene, should the content stray from agreed expectations
- An appropriate level of checks, including an identity check, will be undertaken on visiting speakers, particularly any not previously known to the school. Most speakers will be well known to the school (parents, local professionals, religious leaders) and the school will be familiar with their standing and reputation. Where a speaker represents an organisation, for example, the fire service or a charity, identity checks will include verification of the speaker's connection with the organisation.
- The school's vetting procedures may include an internet search to check for links with inappropriate organisations or the expression of extremist views which would indicate that it would be inappropriate to address pupils at the school.

The above procedures apply at an appropriate level, to all situations where visitors present to the pupils, not simply formal talks, but also the more informal visits to class, covering topics from dental care to Diwali. The procedures are also followed where speakers visit at the invitation of pupils. Any such pupil invitation must be approved by a member of the SLT.

## **16. REVIEWING THIS POLICY**

When reviewing this policy, the school will draw on the expertise of staff in shaping the safeguarding arrangements and policies, to ensure that the schools considers at all times what is in the best interests of the child.

# Weston Green School

## Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy: Appendices

### Appendix 1 Helpful Information

This section is designed to provide information that facilitates understanding of key terminology and indicators:

#### **A. WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?** Defined in the Government guidance KCSiE (September 2016)

Staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another.

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

There are four types of child abuse.

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

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

**Emotional abuse:** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

**Sexual abuse:** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect:** the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Bullying is not defined as a form of abuse in Working Together but there is clear evidence that it is abusive and will include at least one, if not two, three or all four, of the defined categories of abuse.

Annex A of KCSIE 2016 provides further information on specific areas of abuse including,

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- FGM
- Honour Based Violence
- Children Missing from Education
- Forced Marriage

Staff should ensure that they are familiar with the information provided within Annex A of KCSIE 2016 and if they have any concerns report them to the DSL. The following provides useful guidance;

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

In February 2017 the DfE published updated guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation, in the form of an update to Working Together 2015. The updated guidance includes the following definition:

- Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Children may receive something in exchange for performing sexual activities. This can include food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, or money. Children rarely report child sexual exploitation, so it is important that staff are aware of the potential indicators. These include;

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones etc without plausible explanation;
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
- Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
- Frequenting areas known for sex work;
- Concerning use of internet or other social media;



- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being

Staff have been made aware of the updated guidance and recognise that no school, community or social group is immune to the risk of child sexual exploitation, including online, and it can affect both boys and girls. Children can be perpetrators as well as victims.

Appendix 2 provides links to relevant documentation relating to child sexual exploitation.

### **FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)**

FGM is a crime committed usually within the scope of honour-based violence. FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue, and hence interferes with the natural function of girls' and women's bodies. The age at which girls undergo FGM varies enormously according to the community. The procedure may be carried out when the girl is newborn, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during the first pregnancy. However, the majority of cases of FGM are thought to take place between the ages of 5 and 8 and, therefore, girls within that age bracket are at a higher risk. FGM is illegal in the UK. On the 31 October 2015, it became mandatory for teachers to personally report known cases of FGM to the police. Please refer to section 5, above for information on this mandatory duty and to Appendix 2 for relevant contact information.

For cases where it is believed that a girl may be vulnerable to FGM or there is a concern that she may be about to be genitally mutilated the staff will inform the DSL who will report it as with any other child protection concern.

### **Honour-Based Violence**

Honour-based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community. It is often linked to family or community members who believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with their unwritten rule of conduct. For example, honour based violence might be committed against people who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion
- want to get out of an arranged marriage
- want to get out of a forced marriage
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture
- convert to a different faith from the family

Women and girls are the most common victims of honour-based violence. However, it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of 'honour' do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' might include:

- domestic abuse
- threats of violence
- sexual or psychological abuse
- forced marriage
- being held against your will or taken somewhere you don't want to go
- assault

If staff believe that a pupil is at risk from honour-based violence, the DSL will follow the usual safeguarding referral process. However, if it is clear that a crime has been committed or the pupil is at immediate risk, the police will be contacted in the first place. It is important, if honour based violence is known or suspected, that communities and family members are

NOT spoken to prior to referral to the police or social care as this could increase risk to the child.

### **Children Missing From Education**

The school views absence as an issue related to both safeguarding and educational outcomes. Measures have been taken to adopt the additional admissions and attendance requirements which came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 with a view to minimising the occurrence of children missing from education. Relevant staff have received training from the school's safeguarding governor in the implications and implementation of these measures. The school liaises with and reports to the Local Authority, as required, on these matters and may take steps that could result in legal action for attendance, or a referral to children's social care, or both.

Patterns of children missing education can be an indicator of either abuse or safeguarding risks. A relatively short length of time a child is missing does not reduce risk of harm to that child, and all absence or non-attendance is considered with other known factors or concerns. On a day-to-day basis administrative staff monitor registers for patterns of absence and the DSL/a member of SLT undertakes a regular review of attendance records to analyse for patterns and trends.

### **The DSLs and staff consider the following, as appropriate:**

Children missing lessons:

- Are there patterns in the lessons that are being missed?
- Is this more than avoidance of a subject or a teacher?
- Does the child remain on the school site?
- Is the child being sexually exploited during this time?
- Is the child late because of a caring responsibility?
- Has he or she been directly or indirectly affected by substance misuse?
- Are other pupils routinely missing the same lessons, and does this raise other risks or concerns?
- Is the lesson being missed one that would cause bruising or injuries to become visible?

Children missing single days:

- Is there a pattern in the day missed?
- Is it before or after the weekend suggesting the child is away from the area?
- Are there specific lessons or members of staff on these days?
- Is the parent informing the school of the absence on the day?
- Are missing days reported back to parents to confirm their awareness?
- Is the child being sexually exploited during this day?
- Do the parents appear to be aware?
- Are the pupil's peers making comments or suggestions as to whereabouts of the pupil?

Children with continuous days of absence:

- Has the school been able to make contact with the parent?
- Is medical evidence being provided?
- Are siblings attending school (either our or local schools)?
- Did we have any concerns about radicalisation, FGM, forced marriage, honour based violence, sexual exploitation?
- Have we had any concerns about physical or sexual abuse?

### **Forced Marriage**

In the case of children: 'a forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.' In developing countries 11% of girls are married before the age of 15. One in 3 victims of forced marriage in the U.K. are under 18. It is

important that all members of staff recognise the presenting symptoms, how to respond if there are concerns and where to turn for advice. Advice and help can be obtained nationally through the Forced Marriage Unit and locally through the local police safeguarding team or children's social care. The school's policies and practices reflect the fact that, while all members of staff have important responsibilities with regard to pupils who may be at risk of forced marriage, they should not undertake roles in this regard that are most appropriately discharged by other children's services professionals, such as police officers or social workers.

Characteristics that may indicate forced marriage:

While individual cases of forced marriage, and attempted forced marriage, are often very particular, they are likely to share a number of common and important characteristics, including:

- an extended absence from school/college, including truancy;
- a dip in performance or sudden signs of low motivation;
- excessive parental restriction and control of movements;
- a history of siblings leaving education to marry early;
- poor performance, parental control of income and pupils being allowed only limited career choices;
- evidence of self-harm, treatment for depression, attempted suicide, social isolation, eating disorders or substance abuse; and/or
- evidence of family disputes/conflict, domestic violence/abuse or running away from home.

On their own, these characteristics may not indicate forced marriage. However, it is important to be satisfied that, where these behaviours occur, they are not linked to forced marriage. It is also important to avoid making assumptions about an individual pupil's circumstances or act on the basis of stereotyping. For example, an extended holiday may be taken for entirely legitimate reasons and may not necessarily represent a pretext for forced marriage.

## **B. DEFINITION OF HARM & SIGNIFICANT HARM - ADOPTION & CHILDREN ACT 2002 (SECTION 10)**

"Ill treatment or the impairment of health or development (impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another)."

'*Development*' means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

'*Health*' means physical or mental health.

'*Ill treatment*' includes sexual abuse and forms of ill treatment which are not physical.

NB: The Adoption & Children Act 2002 s120 amended the definition of harm to include those instances where a child may witness domestic violence.

## **C. RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT HARM.**

Significant harm includes an allegation of a sexual nature or parents whose behaviour may present risk because of:

- Domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and mental health problems
- Any physical injury caused by assault or neglect which requires medical attention
- Repeated incidents of physical harm
- Any contact with a person assessed as presenting a risk to children
- Children who live in low emotional warmth, high criticism environments
- Children who suffer from persistent neglect
- Children who may be involved in prostitution
- Other circumstances where professional judgement and/or evidence suggest a child's health, development or welfare may be significantly harmed.

## **D. INDICATORS OF ABUSE**

### **Physical:**

- Unexplained injuries, burns, bruises
- Finger marks
- Fear of undressing or medical help
- Improbable explanations for injuries
- Fear of returning home or parents being contacted
- Unexplained absence from school.

### **Neglect:**

- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing
- Frequent lateness and non-attendance
- Poor social relationships
- Constant tiredness
- Independent and street wise
- No parental support for education
- Compulsive stealing or scrounging.
- A child going missing from an education setting is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect.

### **Emotional Abuse:**

- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional responses
- Self-harm
- Reluctance to accept praise
- Low self esteem
- Lack of home support
- Depressed and withdrawn
- Social isolation – not joining in, and few friends.

### **Sexual Abuse:**

- Bruises
- Scratches
- Bite marks on the body
- Persistent infections in the anal or genital area
- Any sexual awareness inappropriate to child's age – shown in drawings, play, vocabulary
- Frequent masturbation
- Changes in behaviour
- Refusal to stay with certain people
- Self-harm
- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Pregnancy.

## **E. RECOGNITION OF ABUSE**

Be open to possibilities. Be aware – if you don't believe it is possible you will never see it. Don't jump to conclusions and look for credible non-abusive explanations, but recognise you may need to seek advice to evaluate the facts. Don't let your preconceptions of the family skew your judgement.

## **F. THE SYMPTOMS OF STRESS AND DISTRESS**

An abused child will usually show signs of stress and distress. Possible signs of abuse include, but are not limited to, those listed below. Many of these may, of course, have nothing to do with abuse, but are worth consideration in trying to understand the child's behaviour:

- A drop in school performance
- Aggressive or hostile behaviour
- Difficulties in relationships with peers
- Excessively affectionate or sexual behaviour towards adults or other children
- Regression to more immature forms of behaviour
- Self-harming or suicidal behaviour
- No reasonable or consistent explanation for a pupil's injuries, or a pattern of injuries
- Disturbed sleep

## **Appendix 2 – Useful links and contact details**

### **School Contacts:**

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Kate Pinhey (Deputy Head)  
[kpinhey@westongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:kpinhey@westongreenschool.org.uk)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Sarah Newnham  
[snewnham@westongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:snewnham@westongreenschool.org.uk)

Designated Safeguarding Lead for EYFS – Jenny Reynolds (Head of EYFS)  
[jreynolds@westongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:jreynolds@westongreenschool.org.uk)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for EYFS – Debbie Mossop  
[dmosso@westongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:dmosso@westongreenschool.org.uk)

Bellevue Safeguarding Governor: Christopher Sanderson

### **Surrey Safeguarding Children Board:**

**MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)** – single point of contact for concerns about children

Telephone: 0300 470 9100 (out of hours service 01483 517898)

Email: [mash@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:mash@surreycc.gov.uk)

### **LADO contact**

Email: [LADO@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@surreycc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 123 1650

### **SSCB Support Team**

Telephone: 01372 833330

### **Independent Schools Inspectorate**

Email: [info@isi.net](mailto:info@isi.net)

Telephone: 020 7600 0100

Fax: 020 7776 8849

Address: CAP House, 9-12 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HA

### **Disclosure and Barring Service**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

Email: [dbsdispatch@dbs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:dbsdispatch@dbs.gsi.gov.uk)

Address: DBS, PO Box 181, Darlington, DL1 9FA

Telephone 01325 953795

### **Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) (KCSIE)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550511/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf)

Part 1 and Annex A are available separately here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550499/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education\\_Part\\_1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550499/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_Part_1.pdf)

### **Working together to safeguard children (March 2015)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

**Version of this guidance suitable for young people:**

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Working%20together%20to%20safeguard%20children.pdf>

**What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (March 2015)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419604/What\\_to\\_do\\_if\\_you\\_re\\_worried\\_a\\_child\\_is\\_being\\_abused.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

**NSPCC Inform website**

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform>

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**NSPCC whistleblowing helpline: 0800 028 0285**

Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**Guidance for safer working practice for adults who work with children and young people**

<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/Guidance%20.pdf>

**Rights 4 Me** (Office for the Children's Rights Director for England (OCRD))

[www.rights4me.org](http://www.rights4me.org)

Email: [advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)

**Child Sexual Exploitation**

**Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners:**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners)

**Child sexual exploitation: annexes:**

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/591905/CSE\\_Guidance\\_Annexes\\_13.02.2017.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591905/CSE_Guidance_Annexes_13.02.2017.pdf)

**Prevent duty** - contact details for advice and support about extremism

DfE dedicated telephone helpline and mailbox for non-emergency advice for staff and governors: 020 7340 7264 and [counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

**Contact details for mandatory reporting of FGM to the police:**

Surrey Police Diversity Crimes Unit 01483 639673

[diversitycrimesunit@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:diversitycrimesunit@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

## **Appendix 3 – sample letter and consent form to parents and children in KS2 regarding internet use**

Dear Parents

### **Responsible Internet Use**

As part of your child's curriculum and development of computing skills, Weston Green School provides supervised access to the internet. We believe that the use of the world wide web is worthwhile and is an essential skill for children as they grow up in the modern world. Please would you read the attached e-safety policy, which forms part of our safeguarding policy, and talk about it at an appropriate level with your child. Please then sign and return the consent form so that your child may use the internet at school.

If your child is in KS2 he/she will discuss the Acceptable Use of Technology rules during their Computing lesson. Please go through them carefully at home with your child as well and then print and sign, with them, the agreement. They do this at the beginning of each academic year in KS2. We would encourage you to adopt the same vigilant approach and standards to your child's internet use at home as we do at school.

Although there have been concerns about pupils in schools having access to undesirable materials via the internet, we are taking positive steps to deal with this risk at Weston Green. Our school internet provider operates a filtering system that restricts access to inappropriate materials. This has recently been upgraded. Whilst every endeavour is made to ensure that stringent restrictions are placed on the ability of children to access inappropriate materials, the School cannot be held responsible for the nature or content of materials accessed through the internet. The School will not be liable for any damages arising from your child's use of the internet facilities.

All pupils receive rigorous training on safe and responsible use of the internet. Our rules also concern the types of communications that pupils make using computers and other technology. We would like your support in helping to ensure that the children at Weston Green are using technology in a responsible and polite manner and never in a way that could upset another person or spoil their work.

As part of our regular cycle we run e-safety sessions led by specialist providers, for example Childnet International, for all WGS pupils, as well as staff and parents.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of internet use in the meantime please get in touch via email or through the school office.

Yours sincerely



**Weston Green School Parental Consent for Internet Access**

*Please read, sign and return to the school office.*

I have read and understood the school rules for responsible Internet use and give permission for my son/daughter to access the Internet.

I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure pupils cannot access inappropriate materials.

I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for the nature or content of materials accessed through the Internet.

I agree that the school is not liable for any damages arising from use of the Internet facilities.

I agree to monitor my child's use of the internet at home and take seriously my responsibility to ensure he/she cannot access inappropriate materials.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Please print name: .....

**Appendix 4 – sample photographic consent form**

**School Photography Policy Form**

Weston Green School and its parent company, Bellevue Education, from time to time uses photos, video, DVD and other multimedia images of children who attend the school. These images are used for both educational reasons (internal) and promotional purposes (external). The use of images for external purposes include: in promotional literature, websites, newsletters, social media, newspapers, promotional displays and multimedia presentations (no names of children are used).

When issuing press releases and photos to the local media, the School is sometimes asked to provide the names of children shown in the images.

**Please complete the form below to confirm whether or not we can use photographs of your child/ren for external purposes. Please return your completed form to the School Office. Thank you.**

**Name of child/ren.....**

**Date.....**

**Please tick the appropriate column\* and sign BOTH sections**

	I do consent	I do not consent	Parent's Signature
I agree that images of my child/ren can be used for external purposes (names will not be used)			
I agree that my child's name may accompany a photo for press purposes only			

**Appendix 5**

**RECORD OF RESTRAINT**

Date of incident:

Time of incident:

Pupil Name:

D.o.B:

Member(s) of staff involved:

Adult witnesses to restraint:

Pupil witnesses to restraint:

Outline of event leading to restraint:

Outline of incident of restraint (including restraint method used):

Outcome of incident:

Description of any injury sustained and any subsequent treatment:

Date /time parent/carer informed of incident:

By whom informed:

Outline of parent/carer response:

Signatures of staff completing report:

.....  
.....  
.....

Brief description of any subsequent inquiry/complaint or action:

## Appendix 6 – Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for

- Being conversant with SSCB procedures and the role of other agencies.
- Following Weston Green School's safeguarding & child protection policies and co-ordinating child protection procedures in Weston Green School.
- Being the first point of contact for parents, pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and external agencies in all matters of child protection.
- Consulting with the Safeguarding in Education Team, Social Care or LADO, as appropriate, on issues if an allegation or suspicion occurs and liaising with the various child protection agencies where appropriate.
- Keeping the Headteacher informed of all actions unless the Headteacher is the subject of a complaint. In this situation, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should consult with the Safeguarding Governor, Schools Director or proprietor.
- Co-operating with any police and LADO investigations.
- Liaising with the Headteacher and Education Director regarding training for all who work at Weston Green School on child protection issues.
- Attending appropriate higher level training every two years.
- Keeping appropriate records
- Supporting staff