



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy & Procedures

Corfe Valley is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This policy has been written with due regard to the Children Act 1989, Education Act 2002, Teaching Standards 2012, Prevent Duty 2019, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2020, Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools, The Use of social media for Online Radicalisation 2015 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

This Policy also follows guidance within the Pan Dorset Inter-Agency Safeguarding Procedures <https://pandorsetscb.proceduresonline.com/> which can be accessed on the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Website <https://pdscp.co.uk/> As well as taking into account the procedures and practice of BCP Council and Dorset Council. We will audit our safeguarding practices at least annually.

Owner: Tom Smith/Kirstie Smith

Reviewed by:	Tom & Kirstie Smith, Proprietors.
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Approved by:	Tom & Kirstie Smith, Proprietors

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Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

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

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Staff applies to all those working for or on behalf of our Alternative Provision, full time or part time, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

Child refers to everyone under the age of 18 or 25 if a care leaver.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example stepparents, foster carers, adoptive parents, and local authority corporate parents.

Aims Of Corfe Valley

At Corfe Valley we all take safeguarding our children and young people seriously and we all recognise that all adults here have a duty of care to protect our children and young people from harm and we all have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child or young person is at risk of harm.

The welfare of the child is paramount:

- All children regardless of age, gender, culture, language, race, ability, sexual identity, or religion have equal rights to protection, safeguarding and opportunities.
- All adults working at Corfe Valley believe that our setting should provide a caring, positive, safe, and stimulating environment that promotes social, physical, mental wellbeing and moral development of the individual child/young person.
- Children/young people and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support and supervision.
- We will ensure consistent good practise across the setting.
- All staff will demonstrate our commitment to protecting children and young people.

Our Policy Aims to:

- Raise the awareness of all staff of the need to safeguard children/young people.
- Provide all staff with guidance on the procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child/young person may be experiencing or be at risk of experiencing harm. Including (by DSL/DDSL) consideration to the use of appropriate assessments, resources, and agency support.

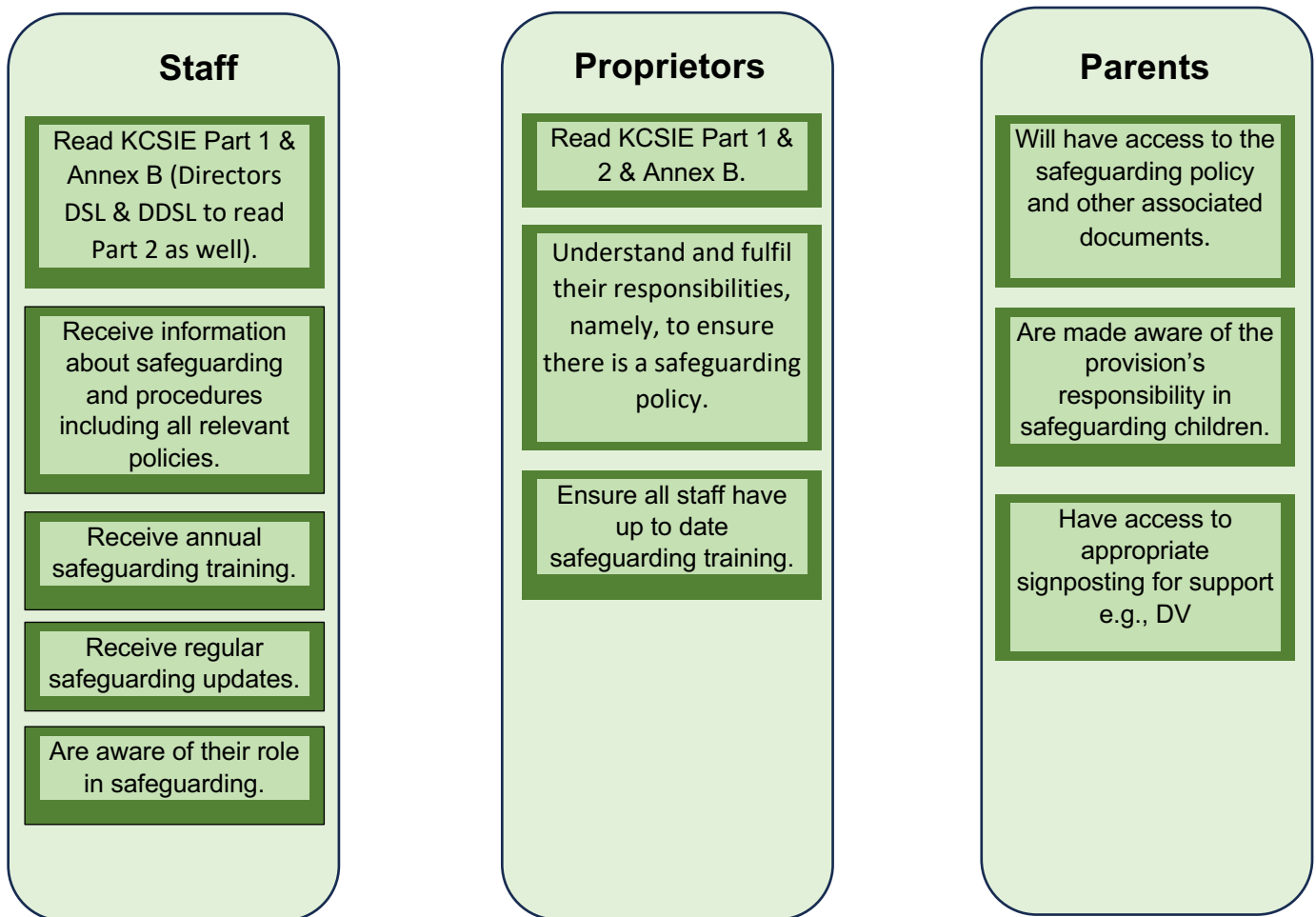
Supporting and Protecting Children

- We recognise that a child/young person who is abused or witnesses' violence may feel helpless and humiliated and could experience barriers to making a disclosure. We understand that the behaviour of a child/young person in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn as well as exhibiting signs of mental health problems.

Corfe Valley will support all children and young people by:

- Encouraging self-esteem
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment
- Building trusting relationships
- Notifying children's social care as soon as there is a significant concern.
- Ensuring appropriate information is shared confidentially.
- Reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.

Safe Setting, Safe Children, Safe Staff:



Staff Roles & Responsibilities

We will follow the statutory guidance as set out in the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education, adhering to the roles, responsibilities and expectations identified. Each staff member at Corfe Valley is committed to providing a safe environment and a clear and honest approach to working with children and their families. Our main focus will always be the child and their safety is paramount and therefore we will always involve other relevant agencies where necessary. Where safe to do so, we will seek to inform parents/carers before involving agencies such as Children's Social Care.

Corfe Valley understands that our staff are particularly important, as they can identify concerns early, provide help for children, promote children's welfare and help prevent concerns from escalating.

All staff at Corfe Valley have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

Our staff can identify children who may benefit from Early Help. Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the early years right through to teenage years.

Any member of staff who has any concerns about a child's welfare will follow the processes set out within Pan-Dorset and log them on our 'MyConcern' system as well as informing the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Every educational setting should have a designated safeguarding lead (DSL), who will support all staff to carry out their safeguarding duties and who will work in close partnership with other agencies such as Children's Social Care. The safeguarding team for Corfe Valley is detailed on the first page.

Corfe Valley understands and recognises that the Teachers' Standards 2012 state that teachers should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

Our Proprietors – Tom & Kirstie Smith will:

- Ensure that child protection, safeguarding, recruitment and managing allegations policies and procedures, including the staff code of conduct and behaviour policy, are consistent with the Local Authority and statutory requirements, are reviewed annually and that the safeguarding and child protection policy is publicly available on our website.
- Ensure that our staff and volunteers are all provided with our safeguarding and child protection policy, code of conduct and behaviour policy.
- Ensure that all staff have read Keeping Children Safe in Education Part 1 and Annex B
- Ensure that our safer recruitment procedure includes statutory checks on staff and that at least one person involved in the recruitment process has completed safer recruitment training.
- Ensuring that we have procedures in place for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff, volunteers and against children and young people.
- Ensuring we have a DSL and they have had the appropriate training.
- Ensuring that procedures are in place for safeguarding children who go missing from education.
- Ensuring that appropriate online filtering and monitoring systems are in place.

The Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL for Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning (including online safety) is Mrs Kirstie Smith who is the co-founder of Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning Alternative Provision.

Mr Tom Smith is the DDSL and the people to whom reports should be made in the absence of the DSL. This ensures there is the required cover for the role at all times.

The DSL/DDSL receives updated child protection training at least every two years to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. Further details of the required training content for the DSL are set out in Annex B of KCSIE (2022)

In addition to their formal training, the DSL's knowledge and skills are updated at least annually to keep up with any developments relevant to their role. All the senior staff are trained to the same level as the DSL.

Roles and responsibilities will include:

- Being available during opening hours.
- Managing referrals to Children's Social Care, Channel programmes, disclosure and barring service, the police, and other professional partners.
- Attending CP, CIN and LAC review meetings.
- Sharing information and managing child protection files.
- Raising safeguarding concerns.
- Updating training, knowledge and skills required to carry out the role of DSL.
- Providing advice, support and guidance to staff.
- Knowing which children and young people are on multi-agency plans and which children/young people have a social worker.
- Ensuring that the setting has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and review their effectiveness. This includes:
 - Making sure that all staff are aware of the provisions in place, and that they understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring as part of safeguarding training.
- Review the DFE's filtering and monitoring standards.

What our staff need to know and their responsibilities

Staff at Corfe Valley are all aware of our systems to support safeguarding and how these should be used. This is explained to them as part of staff induction and includes training on:

- Our safeguarding and child protection policy and related procedures
- Our policy and procedures on how to deal with child-on-child abuse
- Our behaviour policy and related procedures (which include measures to prevent all types of bullying)
- Staff behaviour policy, Code of Conduct and all related procedures
- Our safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and
- The role of the DSL and deputy
- All staff will maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'.
- Identifying concerns early and helping to prevent them from escalating.
- Providing a safe environment where children and young people can flourish.
- Knowing what to do if a child tells them that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected.
- Recognising the barriers for children and young people when making a disclosure.
- Following all our safeguarding procedures.
- Attending regular safeguarding and child protection training.
- Recognising that children missing from education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, sexual abuse, and child sexual and criminal exploitations.
- Reading and understanding Part 1, Annex B of KCSIE.
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- Being aware of systems in the setting which support safeguarding e.g., safeguarding policies and procedures, behaviour policy, code of conduct.

Copies of all relevant policies and procedures are provided to staff at induction including a copy of part one of KCSIE (2023) plus Annex A. All identified related training must be fully completed before a member of staff is able to work with a young person. Training provided for staff is regularly reviewed and updated where necessary.

Training for staff

Child Protection and Prevent will be part of induction for all staff and regular volunteers to Corfe Valley including online safety. Staff will also keep up to date on safeguarding and child protection in a variety of ways which may include inset days, emails and staff briefings. Updates are provided when required to ensure all staff have the relevant knowledge and skills to safeguard our children effectively.

All staff are aware of the process for logging a concern and know what to do if a child does disclose to them that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected. Staff know to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality and that they must never promise to a child that a disclosure will not be shared.

“All staff understand that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or may not recognise their experience as harmful” KCSIE (2023).

All staff can reassure children that any disclosure made will be taken seriously and that they will be supported and feel safe.

The member of staff responsible for our safer recruitment, and has completed the relevant training, is Tom Smith.

What staff should look out for:

Early Help:

Any child may benefit from early help, but our staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
- Has a mental health need
- Is a young carer
- Is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and/or county lines
- Is frequently missing
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual or criminal exploitation
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Has a family member in prison
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Has returned home to their family from care
- Is at risk of honour based abuse such as FGM

- Is a privately fostered child
- Is persistently absent from education

Confidentiality

- Corfe Valley recognises that to effectively meet a child's needs, safeguard their welfare, and protect them from harm the provision must contribute to inter-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and share information between professionals and agencies where there are concerns.
- All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing.

Procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns about a child

Recognising:

Any child, in any family, in any educational setting, could become a victim of abuse. Staff should always maintain an attitude of “**it could happen here**”. We also recognise that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are complex and are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. Staff are aware that in most cases multiple issues will overlap one another.

- Abuse and neglect are forms 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 the family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult, adults or by another child or children.
- Abuse and neglect may also take place outside the home, contextual safeguarding, and this may include (but is not limited to), sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, radicalisation.
- Staff are aware that behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and sharing nudes/semi-nude images/videos (sexting) put children in danger and that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via child-on-child abuse.

Further information about the four main categories of abuse; physical, emotional, sexual and neglect, (familial and contextual) and indicators that a child may be being abused can be found in this policy and in KCSIE Part 1/Annex A/Annex B. There are also a number of specific safeguarding concerns that we recognise our children and young people may experience.

- Child missing from education
- Child missing from home or care
- CSE
- CCE
- Bullying or cyber bullying
- Domestic abuse
- Drugs
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse
- FGM
- Forced marriage



- Gangs and youth violence
- Gender-based violence/violence against woman
- Mental health difficulties
- Radicalisation
- Sexting
- Trafficking
- Child on child abuse
- Up skirting
- Serious violence

Responding

- Following an initial conversation with the child or young person, if the member of staff remains concerned, they should discuss this with the DSL and log them on MyConcerns.
- Records should include:
 - A clear and comprehensive summary of the concern.
 - Details of how the concern was followed up and resolved.
 - A note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.
- All concerns not matter how small, must be recorded and shared with the DSL as this information could provide the 'missing' piece of the bigger picture of the lived experience for the child or young person.

If in any doubt about any recording requirements staff should discuss with the DSL or DDSL. The DSL is responsible for determining any necessary action which includes all decision making around disclosure of information to external stakeholders such as Children's Social Care.

If the young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, ask the DSL to contact the police and/or social care to make a referral.

All staff have a responsibility to refer a child to Children's Social Care under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 if they believe the child:

- Has suffered significant harm
- Is likely to suffer significant harm
- Is a child in need whose development would be likely to be impaired without provision of services.

A referral to Children's Social Care should include any pre-existing assessments such as Early Help.



Flow Chart

Offer reassurance, listen and take seriously what is being said. Never promise to keep secrets or to be persuaded by the child, young person or their family not to take action.

Remember it is not your job to investigate. However, it is important to ascertain relevant information.

Explain the process to the child or young person; that you will need to pass this information on, to whom, the reasons why and possible actions.

Any concerns will be recorded, including the child's voice, body map (if necessary) and other relevant information. Concerns will also be shared with the DSL/DDSL verbally and these conversations will also be recorded.

If a Child/Young Person Makes a Disclosure to a Member of Staff

- We recognise that it takes a lot of courage for a child/young person to disclose they are being abused. They may feel ashamed, guilty, or scared.
- A child/young person who makes a disclosure may have to tell their story on a number of subsequent occasions to the police and/or social workers. Therefore, it is vital that their first experience of talking to a trusted adult is a positive one.
- Listen and let the child or young person speak freely – use TED (tell, explain, describe).
- Remain calm and do not overreact or look shocked.
- Take what the child is disclosing seriously.
- Ask open questions and avoid leading ones.
- Avoid jumping to conclusions.

Notifying Parents

- Corfe Valley will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a child or young person with their parents. This must be handled sensitively and normally the DSL/DDSL will contact the parent in the event of a concern.
- However, if Corfe Valley believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or young person, advice will be sought from the LA safeguarding team.
- Where there are concerns about forced marriage or honour-based abuse, parents should not be informed a referral is being made as to do so may place the child or young person at a significantly increased risk. In some circumstances it would be appropriate to contact the police.

Making a Referral

For all referrals to Children's Social Care the child should be regarded as potentially a child in need and the referral should be evaluated on the same day it was received.

A decision must then be made within one working day about the type of response that is required.

When sharing information about a child with Children's Social Care it is good practice to be open with parents or carers and therefore you should inform them and the child (depending on age and level of understanding) that you are making a referral. However, referrals can be made without first informing the parents where it is thought this places the child at risk but this should all be logged and the staff reasons for this written down.

If we have not had acknowledgement within 3 working days of making the referral, then we will contact Children's Social Care again.

At the end of the referral discussion, the referrer and Children's Social Care should be clear about the proposed action, who will be taking it, timescales and whether no further action will be taken. Referral outcomes typically fall into the below 4 categories:

- No further action
- Early help (referrals for intervention and prevention services)
- Child in need (assessment to be undertaken by Children's social care (section 17 CA 1989))
- Child protection (assessment and child protection enquires undertaken by children's social care (section 47) with active involvement of other agencies such as the police.

Supporting our Staff

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

Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their community, school, clubs and other settings and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts. All staff, especially the DSL or deputy, should consider the context within which such incidents and or behaviour occur. This is contextual safeguarding and assessments should consider such factors, so it is important to provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process.

Attendance

The key to keeping our children safe at Corfe Valley is their consistent attendance. Attendance is recorded through the use of daily registers. Persistent absence may be indicative of a risk to a pupil's welfare and will always require that immediate action be taken. Appropriate action will be determined by the DSL.

We understand and recognise that our children at Corfe Valley may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and why and we will support them with this. Behaviour is monitored and logged when appropriate to help build up a picture over time.

Whistleblowing

We recognise that children and young people cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues, poor or unsafe practise and potential failures in the setting's safeguarding arrangements. If it becomes necessary to consult outside the setting, they should speak in the first instance, the Local Authority Safeguarding team and follow the Whistleblowing policy.

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285. This line is available 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday to Friday and email help@nspcc.org.uk.

Abuse and Neglect:

Types of abuse and neglect can be found in the Appendix of this policy. All staff are aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect and know that it is vital for identification of specific safeguarding issues such as CCE and CSE.

All staff are aware that abuse, neglect, and related safeguarding events are rarely standalone in nature. Staff understand that multiple issues and events may overlap over time. Staff understand the need for vigilance.

“Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse” (KCSIE, 2023).

Staff at Corfe Valley are all aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of the provision. Extra – familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, sexual abuse, serious youth violence and county lines.

Staff are all aware that technology continues to become more and more advanced and that it continues to be a safeguarding issue. Children and young people are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. Children and young people can also abuse peers online, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abuse messages and pornography.

Any concerns staff know to seek advice from the DSL or deputy.

Safeguarding Issues

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through

violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Pan – Dorset defines Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) as occurring ‘when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18.’ Corfe Valley staff are aware this is not always physical and can occur online and often alongside CSE. Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Staff should recognise that as children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by professionals, and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced.

Information about Child Criminal Exploitation can be found in KCSIE (2023).

It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. It is important to note also that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

County Lines

County lines is defined by KCSIE (2023) as a term used ‘to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines.’ Corfe Valley are aware that children and young people can be recruited from across the UK and in a number of educational settings. Social media is making this easier to recruit victims and exploiting them. County lines activity is fast moving and dynamic with the gangs changing tactics and exploiting quickly.

Signs and indicators:

- Going missing from our setting or school
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, mobiles
- Relationships with controlling individuals
- Leaving home with no explanation
- Suspicion of assault
- Unexplained injuries
- Parental concerns
- Self-harm
- Gang association

Response

All staff are aware to inform the DSL as soon as possible if they suspect a child is involved in CCE and know that sharing information is absolutely crucial. The Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit should be used to help staff understand CCE and target specific risks and this is saved on the Corfe Valley files securely for staff to access.

Gang activity, youth violence and criminal exploitation affecting children

This section has been updated to include the newest amendments concerning Knife Crime. Gang activity can be with a peer group, street gang or as an organised crime group. It is also a tactic used by gangs to use vulnerable children to sell drugs. Pan-Dorset highlights that white British children are often targeted because gangs perceive them as more likely to evade the police and that children as young as 12 are being exploited.

Indicators:

- Child withdrawn from family
- Sudden loss of interest in school or change in behaviour
- Decline in attendance
- Emotionally switched off
- Starting to use new or unknown slang words
- Unexplained amount of money or possessions
- Staying out unusually late
- Sudden change in appearance
- New nick names
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Constantly talking about another new person
- Adopting certain mannerisms
- Going missing

Corfe Valley takes all this very seriously and we understand the link between gang violence, criminal exploitation and going missing. We keep vigorous checks on children and young people and do daily registers which are sent onto the child's main setting so that patterns of missed attendance are quickly spotted and managed.

Action:

1. If any staff have concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm due to gang activity then they will contact Children's Social Care or the police.
2. The referrals procedure will be followed (DSL to lead this). An Early Help assessment will also be crucial to additional support.
3. Information sharing is key and will be shared from staff at Corfe Valley for any multi team assessments deemed necessary.

Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs)

This is an additional tool that the police can use to help children and young people move away from knife crime and serious violence. The interventions may include educational courses for the young peoples, awareness and life skills.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of sexual abuse. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex; can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual; can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity; can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both; can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence; may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on

social media); can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults.

CSE can occur 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. CSE does not always involve physical contact: it can also occur through the use of technology.

Indicators of CSE may include:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones, etc. without plausible explanation
- Gang association
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from provision
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals
- Frequenting areas known for sex work
- Concerning use of internet or other social media
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing

If a member of staff has concerns that a child or young person is being sexually exploited, or is at risk of sexual exploitation, they should use the CE Screening Tool and Pan-Dorset Guidance to inform their next steps. Copies of full risk assessments should they be needed are with the DSL.

A Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting will take place following the completion of a Child Exploitation Risk Assessment.

CSE is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity. Staff at Corfe Valley are aware that CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology (see Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance for further information). It is important to remember that sexual exploitation is different to other forms of child sexual abuse because there is the presence of some form of exchange and the unequal power exchange.

PDSCB makes it very clear that sexual exploitation is never the victims fault. All children under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm.

The statutory definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) can be found in the guidance document Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners (DfE 2017).

Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB)

KCSIE (2023) identifies that children's sexual behaviour is on a continuum which ranges from developmentally expected to inappropriate, abusive and violent. HSB can occur online and/or face-to-face.

Corfe Valley staff understand that sexual behaviour can be considered harmful if there is more than 2 year's difference, however, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them.

An Ofsted thematic review (Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges, 2021) detailed concerns around sexual peer-on-peer abuse which included:

- sexual violence such as rape
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, jokes and online harassment
- upskirting
- sexting

Risks:

Pan Dorset identifies some of the key risks and all staff at Corfe Valley will be aware of the following:

- two thirds of contact sexual abuse is committed by peers
- history of abuse
- all children even the instigator are victims
- due to technology children have greater access to information about sex
- the family context is also relevant in understanding behaviour and assessing risk.

Indicators:

- attachment disorder – poor nurturing
- domestic abuse
- previous sexual victimisation
- social rejection and loneliness
- poor empathy skills

Corfe Valley use The Brook Traffic Light Tool to help distinguish between 'normal' age-appropriate behaviour and behaviour which would cause for concern.

Protection and Action

All reports of harmful sexual behaviour will be recorded by the person receiving the initial account and passed onto the DSL. ALL victims will be taken seriously and they WILL be safeguarded. Ofsted (2021) highlighted that most children will not report an incident for many reasons and therefore all our staff are aware of signs to look out for and we maintain a 'it could happen here' attitude. Often it will be a friend or the child may try to show through behaviour something is wrong.

1. Disclosure logged and DSL to record and undertake an initial risk assessment and consider 3 factors; the victim especially their protection and support, the alleged perpetrator and the risk to any other child (and adult if appropriate). KCSIE (2022) highlights that the key consideration 'is for staff not too view or forward illegal images of a child.'

2. Concerns about the behaviour and welfare of the child will be discussed with Children's Social Care which in turn may require a further assessment using the referral procedure on Pan Dorset.
3. Children's Social Care will then undertake a Strategy Meeting if the concerns are that the child has suffered or likely to suffer significant harm.
4. The DSL will attend the Strategy Meeting to share information alongside all professionals where an assessment to the child's needs will be discussed and on-going safeguarding concerns.
5. Although Strategy meetings may not be required it is still good practice to attend a multi-agency meeting to consider the needs of the child.

Risk Assessment

In line with KCSIE (2023) the DSL for Corfe Valley will make an immediate risk and needs assessment if there has been a report of sexual violence. The need for this will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a risk and needs assessment is considered necessary then the following should be considered:

- The victim
- Whether there have been other victims
- Alleged perpetrator
- All the other children (adults if appropriate) at the provision
- The time and location of the incident and any action required to make the location safer

The DSL will engage with LA children's social care and specialist services as required.

Indicators of Sexual Exploitation

All staff at Corfe Valley are responsible for the safeguarding of the children who attend. We are in a good position to witness any changes in behaviour and any physical signs that may indicate sexual exploitation. All staff at Corfe Valley will endeavour to identify potential risks at the earliest opportunity as the majority of the children we have on roll are vulnerable and have special needs.

Identifying cases of CSE is often tricky as children do not often self-report that this is happening to them, which is in part to the grooming process and threats. It can also be hard for those children that identify as LGBTQ, boys and young men. All staff are aware of the below indicators of child exploitation but importantly it can occur without any of the following risk indicators and we must continue to remember that it can happen to any child:

- Unexplained money or gifts
- Going missing from education
- Withdrawn and distressed
- Disengaged
- Secrecy around new friends
- Additional mobile phones
- Sexual health problems
- Disclosure of rape/assault
- Changes in mood and emotional wellbeing

- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Involvement in criminal activity
- Secretive behaviour
- Unexplained physical injuries

All staff are aware that these behaviours can occur without meaning they are being sexually exploited and therefore they will remain open to the potential for other explanations and remain curious about what is happening in the child's world.

The college of policing identifies a number of methods which are used by abusers to coerce a child including; giving presents, offering false promises, supplying alcohol and offering food treats amongst others. The grooming process is often not linear and the time taken to abuse a child will vary in length. The methods of grooming often mean a child or young person will not notice that they are being groomed.

Online Child Sexual Exploitation

All staff at Corfe Valley are trained in online safety and are aware of signs to look out for. Online child sexual exploitation is however harder to identify and respond to and allows a child to be in contact with multiple people at any one time.

Protection and Action to be Taken

Staff at Corfe Valley share information and are aware of the actions to be taken. If a member of staff has concerns that a child or young person is being sexually exploited or at risk if this then they should inform the DSL and complete a CE Screening Tool and the Pan – Dorset Guidance to inform the next steps. All the guidance is password protected and saved on a computer as well as available on the Pan – Dorset website.

Corfe Valley understands the utmost importance of information sharing with all professionals involved to help address any concerns quickly and efficiently.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. Guidance on the warning signs that FGM may be about to take place, or may have already taken place, can also be found on pages 38-41 of the Multi-agency statutory guidance on FGM. If staff have a concern they should speak to the DSL (or DDSL). As appropriate they will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with Police and Children's Social Care.

There is a statutory duty on teachers to personally report to the Police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 this will usually come from a disclosure.

Where there is a disclosure of FGM it is important that staff know what their statutory response should be. Whilst all staff should speak to the DSL (or deputy) regarding any concerns about FGM, there is a specific legal duty on teachers. If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must report this to the police (KCSIE, 2023).



The mandatory reporting procedures states:

'It is recommended that you make a report orally by calling 101, the single non-emergency number. Where there is a risk to life or likelihood of serious immediate harm, professionals should report the case immediately to police, including dialling 999 if appropriate. In most cases reports under the duty should be made as soon as possible after a case is discovered, and best practise is for reports to be made by the close of the next working day.'

[Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Symptoms of FGM:

FGM may be likely if there is a visiting female elder, there is talk of a special procedure or celebration to become a woman, or parents wish to take their daughter out of school to visit an 'at risk' country.

Indicators that FGM may have already taken place:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may look uncomfortable
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom
- Frequent urinary problems
- Prolonged or repeated absences
- Confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem
- Talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

HBA encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including FGM, forced marriage. Where staff are concerned that a child might be at risk of HBA, they must contact the DSI as a matter of urgency.

Mental Health

All staff must be aware that mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how adverse childhood experiences can impact on children's mental health, behaviour and education.

When concerns are identified, Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning staff will provide opportunities for the child to talk or receive support within the setting's environment. Parents will be informed of the concerns and a shared way to support the child will be discussed. Where the needs require additional professional support, referrals will be made to the appropriate team or service with the parent's agreement or child's if they are considered to be competent.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following the setting's child protection policy, and speaking to the DSL or DDSL.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood and into adulthood. It is key that our staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.

Child-On-Child Abuse

In line with the updated KCSIE (2023) peer-on-peer abuse is now recognised and titled as child- on child abuse. All staff here at Corfe Valley are aware that children can abuse other children and that this can happen both inside and outside of our setting or online. Staff at Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning recognise that even if there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse, such abuse may still be taking place and is simply not being reported. Any concerns regarding child-on-child abuse should be raised with the DSL or DDSL. There is a very clear zero-tolerance approach to abuse here at Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning.

All staff have a clear understanding and know the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviour between peers, that are actually abusive in nature. It is highlighted in this document that downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh” etc. or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

Child-on-child abuse can take many forms and can include, but is not limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- up skirting (which is a criminal offence and typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without the knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation distress or alarm); ; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals;
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery); initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include and online element);
- Girls, students with SEND and LGBT children are more at risk of peer-on-peer abuse. Signs that a child may be suffering from peer-on-peer abuse can also overlap with those indicating other types of abuse and can include:
- failing to attend school, disengaging from classes or struggling to carry out school related tasks to the standard ordinarily expected;
- physical injuries;
- experiencing difficulties with mental health and/or emotional wellbeing;
- becoming withdrawn and/or shy; experiencing headaches, stomach aches, anxiety and/or panic
- attacks; suffering from nightmares or lack of sleep or sleeping too much;

- broader changes in behaviour including alcohol or substance misuse;
- changes in appearance and/or starting to act in a way that is not appropriate for the child's age;
- Abusive behaviour towards others

Sexual violence and sexual harassment, as a type of child-on-child abuse, may overlap and can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal). Examples of sexual harassment include sexual comments sexual “jokes” or taunting; physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone; non-consensual sharing of sexual images and sexualised online bullying.

What to do if staff have concerns about child-on-child abuse:

- All staff are aware on the indicators and we all share the attitude of ‘it could happen here’.
- Staff will act on concerns quickly by informing the DSL and in the absence of this person they will contact the DDSL.
- The DSL will then take the lead on next steps and contact the relevant professionals and judge whether to pass a concern onto the LA children’s social care and/or police.

Extra-familial harms:

Children can be at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms (but not limited to) sexual abuse (including harassment and exploitation), domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse), criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, county lines, and radicalisation.

Serious Violence

All staff are aware of the indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from our setting, a change in friendships, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

All staff understand the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery. Further advice and guidance is available from the Home Office on their website.

Self-Harm And Suicidal Behaviour

Definitions from the Mental Health Foundation (2003) are:

- Deliberate self-harm without suicidal intent, resulting in non-fatal injury;
- Attempted suicide is self-harm with intent to take life, resulting in non-fatal injury;
- Suicide is self-harm, resulting in death.

Staff at Corfe Valley take this very seriously and are aware that self-harm is often a common precursor to suicide. Self-harm as described by Pan-Dorset is normally a range of behaviours that are done in a hidden way but deliberately and is often a way for a child or young person to express themselves as they do not know another way.

Indicators of Self-Harm

This is wide ranging but can include bereavement, bullying, including cyber bullying, mental health problems, family problems such as domestic abuse or any form of child abuse as well as conflict between the child and parents.

Signs:

- Cutting
- Burning, banging, hair pulling
- Self-poisoning
- Direct injury such as scratching, cutting, hitting yourself etc.
- Abusive relationships
- Taking risks too easily
- Low self-esteem and expressions of hopelessness

Risks:

An assessment of any child deemed at risk of self-harm will be undertaken at Corfe Valley and will consider:

- The level of intent and planning to self-harm
- Frequency of these thoughts and actions
- Signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder such as depression
- Previous history
- Delusional thoughts and behaviours
- Feeling overwhelmed and out of control

Action:

All staff are trained and know to be supportive and to demonstrate respect and understanding to the child or young person and to never be judgemental. All the children and young people on roll with us have SEND and/or SEMH needs and therefore they may find expressing their thoughts and feelings difficult. Staff will talk to the child or young person and find out what is troubling them and what support could help them. This must all be logged and passed onto the DSL who can then pass the information on to the appropriate professionals. We then work together to decide on the next steps which can often be a referral to Children's Social Care

Additional information and support

The Department for Education advice What to Do if You Are Worried a Child is Being Abused - Advice for Practitioners provides more information on understanding and identifying abuse and neglect. Examples of potential indicators of abuse and neglect are highlighted throughout the advice. The NSPCC website also provides useful additional information on abuse and neglect and what to look out for.

Bullying

Bullying is defined as 'behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally' (DfE definition). Corfe Valley has a zero-tolerance stance towards any kind. All children and young people are encouraged to speak openly and freely with all members of staff if they feel they are being bullied or have witnessed another child being bullied.

Any child or young person who feels that they have been the victim of bullying will be listened to and supported. It is imperative that all children and young people feel they are able to share their concerns about bullying with a trusted adult.

The Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges document by Ofsted (2021) identified high levels of sexual harassment for both girls and boys – usually in unsupervised settings. Bullying can be inflicted on a child by another child or by an adult and can take many forms, but the three main types are:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, shoving
- Verbal – name calling, racist, sexual or homophobic remarks
- Emotional – isolating an individual from games/activities and the social acceptance of their peer group.

Cyberbullying

This is a form of bullying that takes place using technology and the effects can be very damaging for a young person. Our principle is firm in that 'bullying is always unacceptable' and that 'all students have a right not to be bullied'. Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning also recognises that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside the setting which spills over into the learning day; therefore, once aware we will respond to any cyber-bullying we become aware of carried out by pupils when they are away from the site. Cyber-bullying is defined as 'an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself.'

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

- Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile 'phones
- The use of mobile 'phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites
- Using e-mail to message others
- Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in on-line forums

If staff have reason to believe any of the above abuse is happening to a child or a child is conducting the abuse a referral will be made following Pan-Dorset referral process. Please refer to our Bullying Policy as well as our child friendly Anti-Bullying Policy.

Abuse through the digital media

This was updated in May 2022 to now include the definition of sexting to include taking and distributing nude or semi-nude images. Internet Abuse relates to four primary areas of abuse to children:

- Sharing and production of abusive images of children (although these are not confined to the internet);
- A child or young person being groomed online for the purpose of Sexual Abuse;
- Exposure to pornographic images and other offensive material via the internet;
- The use of the internet, and in particular social media sites, to engage children in extremist ideologies or to promote gang violence.

Internet abuse can include cyberbullying or online bullying (see bullying and cyber bullying within this policy as well as our Bullying policies).

Internet abuse can also include sexting. Often children and young people will only consider sexting to mean the writing and sharing of explicit messages with people they know rather than sharing youth-produced sexual images or sharing nudes and semi-nude images of themselves or others. Pan Dorset makes it clear that sexting in itself may not be criminally motivated, but creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal.

Indicators:

- Changes in behaviour and mood of the child victim.
- Changes to a child's circle of friends
- Change in attitude towards use of a computer or phone.
- Not wanting to be alone with a particular person

Staff at Corfe Valley know that children will often show rather than tell and therefore are aware of the various signs of abuse to look out for. They also know that certain behaviours cannot always mean abuse.

Action:

Where it is suspected or there is actual evidence of anyone accessing or creating indecent images of children then the police and children's social care will be informed via the Pan Dorset referral Procedure. This is the same with online grooming and referrals should be used the same way. Referrals for online grooming will normally lead to a strategy discussion to determine the next course of action. With extremist material this will also normally lead to a strategy discussion.

Suspected online terrorist material can be reported through www.gov.uk/report-terrorism.

This should all be cross referenced with our online safety policy and bullying.

Online safety

We recognise the importance of safeguarding children and young people from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, and we understand that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

To address this, Corfe Valley aims to:

- Have robust processes (including filtering and monitoring systems) in place to ensure the online safety of learners, staff and volunteers.
- Protect and educate the whole school community in its safe and responsible use of technology, including mobile and smart technology (which we refer to as mobile phones).
- Set clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for the whole of Corfe Valley.
- Establish clear mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incidents or concerns, where appropriate.

The 4 Key Categories of Risk:

Our approach to online safety is based on addressing the following categories of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, self-harm, suicide, radicalisation and extremism.

- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography), sharing explicit images and online bullying.
- **Commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams.

To meet our aims and address the risks above, we will:

- Educate of children and young people about online safety by discussing the safe use of social media, the internet and technology.
- Keeping personal information private.
- How to recognise unacceptable behaviour online.
- How to report any incidents of cyber bullying.
- We will train staff as part of their induction, on safe internet use and online safeguarding issues including cyber bullying, the risks of online radicalisation, and the expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring.
- Make sure staff are aware of any restrictions placed on them with regards to the use of mobile phones and cameras.
- Put in place robust filtering and monitoring systems to limit children's exposure to the 4 key categories of risk. **Corfe Valley uses SmoothWall to ensure we are meeting the governments required standard on monitoring and filtering.**
- Provide online safety and safeguarding training to all staff at least annually.
- Review and update the safeguarding policy at least annually.

This section summarises our approach at Corfe Valley to online safety and mobile phone use. For full details about our policies in these areas, please refer to our online safety policy and mobile phone policies.

Children And Young People Vulnerable To Violent Extremism – Prevent

Designated Prevent Lead is Kirstie Smith

Prevent is concerned with safeguarding people and the community from the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Prevent is part of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Since the publication of the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and their families from violent extremism. Corfe Valley approach the need to safeguard children and young people from violent extremism the same way as safeguarding children from other risks. ALL children and young people have the right to be protected from violent extremism.

Corfe Valley are aware of the risks of violent extremism and the many channels this may come through such as; social media, family members, friends and/or direct access to extremist groups.

Staff are also aware of grooming and how this can potentially over time lead the child or young person away from those that would otherwise challenge the ideology.

Any information that raises questions or concerns will be shared with the parents, schools, Children's services and the police as part of the risk assessment. Any individual identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation will be referred to a multi-agency Channel Panel. Channel is about early intervention to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity and addresses all types of extremism.

Indicators for Violent Extremism:

- Identity crisis – distance from cultural heritage
- Personal crisis – family tensions, sense of isolation, low self-esteem
- Personal circumstances – alienation from UK values, local community tensions
- Unmet aspirations – perception of injustice
- Criminality – experiences of imprisonment
- Secretive behaviour online
- Searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles

All staff at Corfe Valley are aware, however, that the following behaviours may be seen in the setting:

- General change of mood, patterns of secrecy
- Changes of friends
- Use of inappropriate language
- Possession of violent extremist literature
- Expressing extremist views
- Advocating violent actions
- Associated with known extremists.
- Seeking to recruit others
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Glorifying violence

Holding radical or extreme views is not illegal, but inciting a person to commit an act in the name of any belief is in itself an offense.

Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. It can also call for the death of members of the armed forces. There is no single way of identifying a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through different methods such as online. As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Action to be taken if a child is seen as at risk of radicalisation and/or extremism.

A multi-agency assessment meeting will determine the appropriate response and level of support. Referrals will be considered to the Channel programme in some cases. It may include a referral to children's social care depending on the level of risk. However, if staff

have concerns that there is an immediate/significant risk of a child being drawn into terrorism they must call 999 or a CP referral to Children's

Social Care in Dorset by contacting Dorset - Children's Advice and Duty Service (ChAD).
Professionals Number: 01305 228558; Dorset Families and Members of the Public: 01202 228866; Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole – Children's First Response Hub: 01202 735046 (childrensfirstresponse@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

1. Wherever possible the response should be appropriate and proportionate. Corfe Valley will look to include additional mentoring and activities and support.
2. Multi-agency assessment that may lead to a strategy discussion, section 47 enquiries and child protection conference.
3. Where concerns are identified and the young person is vulnerable these will be discussed with the Channel police who will decide if a referral to Channel is required.
4. Where the child may be involved and supporting extremism further investigation by the police will be required.

Learners sharing nudes/semi-nude images and videos (Sexting)

The practise of children sharing images and videos via text message, email, social media, or mobile messaging apps as become commonplace. However, this online technology has also given children the opportunity to produce and distribute sexual imagery in the form of photos and videos. Such imagery involving anyone under the age of 18 is illegal.

Youth produced sexual imagery refers to both images and videos where:

- A person under the age of 18 creates and shares sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18.
- A person under the age of 18 shares sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer under the age of 18 or an adult.
- A person under the age of 18 is in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18.

All incidents of this nature should be treated as a safeguarding concern.

Cases where sexual imagery of people under 18 has been shared by adults and where sexual imagery of a person of any age has been shared by an adult to a child is child sexual abuse and should be responded to accordingly.

If a member of staff becomes aware of an incident involving youth produced sexual imagery, they should follow the child protection procedures and refer to the DSL as soon as possible. The member of staff should confiscate the device involved and set it to flight mode or, of this is not possible, turn it off. Staff should not view, copy or print the youth produced sexual imagery.

The DSL should hold an initial review meeting with appropriate school staff and subsequent interviews with the children involved (if appropriate). Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is reason to believe that involving parents would put the child at risk of harm.

Immediate referral should be made to the Local Authority Safeguarding team/police if:

- The incident involves an adult.

- There is a good reason to suspect the young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed.
- From what you know about the imagery
- The imagery involved sexual acts
- The imagery involves anyone aged 12 or under.
- There is a reason to believe a child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example the child is presenting as suicidal or self harming.

If none of the above apply, then the DSL will use their professional judgement to assess the risk to children/learners involved and may decide to respond to the incident without escalation to the Local Authority Safeguarding team or the police. Such decisions will be recorded.

In applying judgement, the DSL will consider if:

- There is a significant age difference between the sender/receiver.
- There is any coercion.
- The imagery was shared and received with the knowledge of the child in the imagery.
- The child is more vulnerable than usual.
- There is a significant impact on the children involved.
- The image is of a severe or extreme nature.
- The child involved understands consent.
- The situation is isolated or if the image has been widely distributed.

Reports concerning harmful sexual behaviour.

Where a report concerns an allegation of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment, if possible two members of staff should be present when managing a report (preferably one of them being the DSL or DDSL. The DSL or DDSL should be informed as soon as practically possible if they were not involved in the initial report).

Consideration of safeguarding all those children involved in the safeguarding report will be immediate. Following a report of sexual violence and/or sexual harassment the DSL will therefore consider the appropriate response. This will include:

- The wishes of the victim,
- The nature of the alleged incident,
- The ages of the children involved,
- The developmental stages of the children involved,
- Any power imbalance between the children,
- If the alleged incident is a one-off or sustained pattern,
- Any ongoing risks,
- Other related issues and context.

Any response and action will, as always, have at the centre the best interests of the child. The DSL will reassure any victim that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. The victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment; nor would a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

When there has been a report of sexual violence, the DSL (or a deputy DSL) should make an immediate risk and needs assessment in respect of each child affected by the abuse. Where there has been a report of sexual harassment, the need for a risk assessment should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The risk and needs assessment should consider:

- The “victim”;
- The alleged “perpetrator”; and
- The other children (and, if appropriate, staff) in the setting.

The DSL will consider as part of the AP response, the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur and the importance of anonymity. Risk assessments will be recorded (either written or electronic) and kept under review. The DSL will consider the risks posed to all students and put adequate measures in place to protect them and keep them safe. This may include consideration of the proximity of the “victim” and alleged “perpetrator” and considerations regarding shared classroom space. Any professional risk assessment will inform the setting’s approach.

The police may be informed of any harmful sexual behaviours including sexual violence and sexual harassment which are potentially criminal in nature, such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia. Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults will be passed to the police. A report to the police will generally be made in parallel with a referral to children’s social care. If the DSL decides to make a referral to children’s social care and/or a report to the police against a “victim’s” wishes, the reasons should be explained to the student and appropriate specialist support offered. The DSL or DDSL will also work closely with children’s social care and other agencies are required to ensure any action taken under this policy does not jeopardise any statutory investigation and to discuss how the alleged “perpetrator”, staff, parents and others will be informed of the allegations and what information can be disclosed bearing in mind the need to protect those involved and their anonymity.

Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning will consider whether disciplinary action may be appropriate for any child/children involved. Before deciding on appropriate action the setting will always consider its duty to safeguard all children from harm; the underlying reasons for a child’s behaviour; any unmet needs, or harm or abuse suffered by the child; the risk that the child may pose to other children; and the severity of the peer-on-peer abuse and the causes of it. Exclusion will only be considered as a last resort and only where necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the other children in the setting.

The DSL will ensure that where children move to another educational institution following an incident of peer-on-peer abuse, the new institution is made aware of any ongoing support needs and, where appropriate, any potential risks to other children and staff.

Photography and images to protect children

Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning will:

- Seek their consent for photographs to be taken or published
- Seek parental consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on the website or in newspaper publications)
- Use only the child’s first name with an image

Effective Inter-Agency Around Safeguarding

Corfe Valley compliance with Child Safeguarding Practice Review Processes

The purpose of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The responsibility lies at both a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with safeguarding partners. Corfe Valley understands the importance of our work at a local level in identifying any safeguarding concern.

Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which:

- Abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- The child has died been seriously harmed.

The Working Together to Safeguard Children document highlights how complex multi-agency working is with many individuals who all play their part. 'Serious harm includes (but is not limited to) serious and/or long-term impairment of a child's mental health or intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development' – as explained by Pan-Dorset.

The DSL will inform the safeguarding partners of any incident which they think should be considered for a child safeguarding practice review this includes the inter of a child.

The DSL regularly reviews the provisions and their own practices and concerns about welfare and safeguarding matters. This includes the personal and professional duty of all staff to report welfare and safeguarding concerns to the DSL, or in their absence, to a member of the senior staff or directly to local children's services.

Child Death Review:

In the tragic event of an unexpected death of a child, Corfe Valley will provide as much detail as is known to them in relation to the child and family and the circumstances of the death. They will also inform the designated person of any professionals known to be involved with the child or family and comply fully with the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to ensure lessons are learned and future deaths avoided.

The responsibility for ensuring child death reviews are carried out is held by 'child death review partners', as defined within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and set out in current legislation. These people will make arrangements to review all child deaths in the local area. Child death review partners in BCP, Dorset and Somerset have agreed to treat Pan Dorset and Somerset as a single area resulting in a joint child death review panel.

Please see the Pan – Dorset website for a full comprehensive list of the designated officials for Child Death Review partners in BCP, Dorset and Somerset.

The Child Death Overview Panel:

The panel is responsible for reviewing the death of all children from birth up to but not including the age of 18. The panel will seek to:

- Understand the reasons for each child's death
- Address the possible needs of other children in the household
- Address the needs of family members

- Consider any lessons to be learnt about how to prevent the death of a child

Purpose of Child Death Reviews:

The Pan Dorset Child Death Overview Panel will identify as much as possible if any case is needed for a serious Case Review, any matters concerning the safety and welfare of children, any wider public health concerns and putting into place procedures for ensuring there is a co-ordinated response to all deaths.

Children Who Go Missing From Education Or School

Attendance, absence and exclusions are closely monitored as we know that a child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse and neglect. The DSL will monitor unauthorised absences and take appropriate action including notifying the local authority.

There are specific concerns about the links between children running away and the risks of criminal and sexual exploitation as highlighted by PDSCP and the real threat of children and young people who go missing from education to suffer significant harm. The guidance is clear that early and effective sharing of information between professionals is essential in identifying patterns of risk. Grooming and Radicalisation are also likely in the event a child goes missing from education and all staff at Corfe Valley should use their knowledge and understanding of the behaviours to look out for in this case.

Recognition and Response on Children who go Missing from Education or School

Staff at Corfe Valley are in a good position to notice when a child goes missing due to our daily registers taken which are then shared with the child's school where they are on role. All absences are therefore recorded allowing staff at Corfe Valley to be able to map and see quickly any patterns of absences which can then be passed on to the Local Authority and all those involved with the care of the child.

Before a child begins their placement the parent/carer must complete a medical/consent form with their home address on and 2 contact names and numbers to ensure we have evidence of their own and the child's identity and where they are residing.

If a member of staff believes a child may have run away or gone missing they will first try to establish with the parent/carer what has happened and the designated safeguarding lead will be informed.

From the first day of a child not attending with no explanation or authorisation given the following steps should be taken in line with PDSCB:

- The designated safeguarding lead will make contact with the parent/carer to seek reassurance that the child is safe at home.
- This would then be assessed and any concerns would then be consulted with the child's staff where they are on role and the vulnerability of the child considered.

When to refer to children's social care and/or the police:

- The child may be a victim of a crime
- The child is subject to a Child Protection Plan
- The child is subject of s47 enquires
- The child is looked after
- Serious issues of attendance
- Family move frequently

The answers to further questions could help assist a judgement about whether or not to inform LA children's services and the police:

- The age of the child
- Whether the behaviour is unexpected or not
- Has the child been a victim of bullying?
- Are there religious or cultural reasons to believe the child may be at risk?
- Any past concerns?
- Drugs/alcohol within the family?

Notifications and Actions:

Day one

If the answers to any of the points set out in the previous section indicates that there are concerns about the child's safety then a referral should be made to the police and children social care on day one. The education welfare service should be informed and requested to assist in locating the child.

Step one:

- Contact the local police station (24 hour response);
- Any suspicion/evidence of crime must be clearly stated;
- The circumstances and all available information regarding the child and family will be required.

Step two:

- The missing person report will be risk assessed and the local police response team will carry out immediate actions;
- The investigation will be progressed by the police response team, in conjunction with either the local missing Persons Unit and/or the CID.

Step three:

- The missing person report will generate a notification to the police;
- The police will work with, and refer information to, the LA children's social care;
- circumstances, will also liaise with the Dorset Police Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) in order to identify, and act upon, any suspicion of child abuse or child related crime.

Step four:

Corfe Valley will work in collaboration with children's social care and the police and a safeguarding education representative should participate in any strategy discussions, s47 enquiries and Child Protection Conferences which may arise.

Reasonable enquiry:

The designated safeguarding lead will make telephone calls using the numbers held on record and letters to the identified address, home visits and consultations with the LA.

A child going missing is a potential indicator of a range of safeguarding possibilities, such as abuse or neglect. Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning holds more than one emergency contact number for each student so additional options are available to

make contact with a responsible adult when a child goes missing is also identified as a welfare and/or safety concern.

Days 2 – 28:

If the above is unsuccessful then Corfe Valley will contact the LA CME officer who will then make enquires. The designated safeguarding lead will share information with the LA and police as appropriate.

Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning shall inform the local authority of any student who is going to be added to or deleted from the setting's admission register. This will assist the local authority to:

-follow up with any child who might be in danger of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of abuse, neglect or radicalisation.

Information Sharing

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect. As part of meeting a child's needs, Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning recognise the importance of information sharing between practitioners and local agencies. Staff will be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to the Local Authority Children's Social Care.

Pan-Dorset highlights that 'information sharing should always be necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure'. A record is always logged and noted on who has shared it and why. Information helps to inform ourselves and other professionals of behaviour patterns, when a child is at risk of going missing or gone missing. By using 'My Concern' a secure online platform information is safely stored and shared efficiently among professionals.

Information, as provided for in the data protection act 2018 and the GDPR

We understand that 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent where there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner but it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk. **The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.**

What We Will Do If We Have A Safeguarding Concern At Corfe Valley

Staff working with children and young people must maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'. Staff will act immediately and always in the best interests of the child.

Staff will always follow our setting's safeguarding and child protection policies and be guided by the DSL. Options for action will include:

- Passing on relevant concerns to the child's lead professional this may be a school SENCO where the child is on role at – all concerns are logged securely written down on the computer in the child's file.
- Liaising with lead professionals and undertaking an early help assessment
- Liaising with lead professionals and making a referral to statutory services

The DSL and deputy are always available, however if in very exceptional circumstances if they are not available the staff member will discuss their concerns as soon as possible with either:

- Another senior member of staff
- CHAD – Children's Advice and Duty Service (Dorset Local Authority)
- Mash – BCP & Wiltshire

Anyone can make a referral, not just the DSLs.

Early Help

All staff can identify children who may benefit from early help. This means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life.

Early help support must be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to Children's Social Care if the child's situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse. Referrals to children's Social Care in Dorset can be made by contacting Dorset - Children's Advice and Duty Service (ChAD). Corfe Valley will work with other local agencies to identify children and families who would benefit from early help through working alongside other lead professionals with options that may include:

- Initiating an assessment for Early Help
- Providing Early Help services
- Referring to appropriate services e.g. CAMHS
- For Early Help advice in Bournemouth
<https://www.earlyhelppartnership.org.uk/home.aspx>

Statutory Children's Social Care assessments and services

Concerns about a child's welfare should be referred to Local Authority Children's Social Care. When a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, it is important that a referral to Children's Social Care (and if appropriate the police) is made immediately. Referrals will follow local referral process.

Children In Need

A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled.

Local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Children with a Social Worker:

At Corfe Valley we recognise that when a child has a social worker, it is an indicator that the child is more at risk than most children.

This may mean that they are more vulnerable to further harm, as well as facing educational barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and poor mental health. We take these needs into account when making plans to support children who have a social worker.

Children Suffering Or Likely To Suffer Significant Harm

Local authorities, with the help of other organisations as appropriate, have a duty to make enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Such enquiries enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare and must be initiated where there are concerns about maltreatment. This includes all forms of abuse and neglect, female genital mutilation, or other so-called 'honour'-based abuse, forced marriage and extra-familial harms like radicalisation and sexual exploitation.

What will the Local Authority do?

Within one working day of a referral being made, a Local Authority social worker should acknowledge its receipt to the referrer and make a decision about the next steps and the type of response that is required. This will include determining whether:

- the child requires immediate protection and urgent action is required
- any services are required by the child and family and what type of services
- the child is in need and should be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children provides details of the assessment process
- there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and whether enquiries must be made, and the child assessed under section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children provides details of the assessment process; and;
- further specialist assessments are required to help the Local Authority to decide what further action to take.

The referrer should follow up if this information is not forthcoming.

If social workers decide to carry out a statutory assessment, staff at Corfe Valley will do all they can to support the assessment.

If, after a referral, the child's situation does not appear to be improving, school's DSL or the deputy will consider following local escalation procedures to ensure their concerns have been addressed and the child's situation can improve.

Why is this important?

It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address safeguarding risks, prevent issues escalating and to promote their welfare. Research and serious case reviews have repeatedly shown the dangers of failing to take effective action. Examples of poor practice include:

- failing to act on and refer the early signs of abuse and neglect
- poor record keeping
- failing to listen to the views of the child

- not sharing information with the right people within and between agencies
- sharing information too slowly; and
- a lack of challenge to those who appear not to be acting.

Allegations Against Staff

All staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a child/young person. It is always advisable that when working with individual children and young person that this is conducted in view of other adults. Guidance about safe practice, including safe use of mobile phones by staff and volunteers will be given at induction. In line with KCSIE part 4 guidelines.

Please see refer to our Managing Allegations Policy. Please also note that we will always be guided by the LADO's advice and instructions. Where the LADO makes a determination, we will abide by their decision and recommendations in full.

Low Level Concerns about staff behaviour

This sections is based on 'Section 2: Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold' in part 4 of KCSIE. At Corfe Valley we have an open and transparent culture, and all concerns will be dealt with appropriately and promptly. Allegations or concerns about an adult working at Corfe Valley whether as a teacher, learning mentor, volunteer or other staff.

Allegations that may meet the harms threshold include:

- Behaviour that has harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offense against a child or related to a child
- Behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

How we will deal with a concern?

- Staff will be educated and well informed about what appropriate behaviour is and be confident in distinguishing between problematic and expected behaviour
- Staff will be encouraged to share any low-level safeguarding concerns
- Staff will be supported

If staff have safeguarding concerns or an allegation is made about another member of staff posing a risk of harm to children then:

- This should be referred to the proprietor
- Where the allegation or concern is about this person this should be referred directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADOs).

The Local Authority Designated Officer for Dorset Council can be contacted by phone: 01305 221122, or by email: LADO@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

What staff should do if they have concerns about safeguarding practices within Corfe Valley

All staff and volunteers at Corfe Valley should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the setting's regime. Such concerns will always be taken seriously.

Low level concerns should be recorded in writing, including:

- Name of individual sharing their concerns
- Details of the concern
- Context in which the concern arose

- Action taken

Records must be kept confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018

Positive Handling

On rare occasions staff may need to use restraint training to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child and/or those around them. Any use of restraint training must be recorded and logged in our system. Parents/carers must be informed immediately.

Only staff who have been trained in positive handling can use physical intervention. This intervention will always be used as last resort.

Following any restraint training intervention a post incident meeting will be held. This meeting will always involve the DSL, child and member of staff involved.

Recruitment And Selection Of Staff

Corfe Valley operates in full compliance with all requirements laid down by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Disclosure and Barring Service. As previously indicated, Corfe Valley recognises our duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults by use of safer recruitment processes:

- All staff and volunteers working at Corfe Valley must have an enhanced DBS check. All DBS checks are reviewed/renewed in line with all DfE and DBS current guidance.
- All staff and volunteers sign to record that they have received, read and understood schools Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and all related policies and processes within school.
- All staff at Corfe Valley may have through course of their work direct pupil contact and/or access to student personal data.
- Determined by their role in school, some staff will need higher level child protection training and must complete this within timescales advised by the DSL
- All staff recruitment must be led by an individual who has completed Safer Recruitment training.
- All aspects of the recruitment process follow Safer Recruitment guidelines. Applicants must provide full personal details and demonstrate relevant previous work with children and young people. Any stated qualifications will be thoroughly checked to ensure authenticity.
- Corfe Valley takes up one or more written references and insists that any appointment where staff have direct and / or unsupervised access to pupils will only be confirmed subject to a satisfactory DBS check at the appropriate level.
- At interview we have sound procedures and recording to ensure we are satisfied, and can evidence, that the applicant is appropriate and suitable.
- If at any point during the recruitment procedure, information is disclosed that indicates that an applicant is not suitable for working with our young people we have a duty as an employer to pass this information on to relevant services.

DBS Checks

An agreed, consistent approach to DBS checks for all staff is followed. DBS checks will be carried out for:

- proprietors
- staff (including relief/casual staff)
- volunteers

- visiting professionals/freelancers
- occasional workers e.g. work placements

DBS checks should be reviewed regularly and current guidance indicates this should happen at an interval of no more than 3 years. New members of staff or volunteers may not work in an unsupervised way with our children until a satisfactory DBS checked has been concluded.

Corfe Valley maintains a single central record of all recruitment and vetting checks that have been obtained. This includes records of current staff, including supply staff. The single central record will be maintained, regularly reviewed and updated where necessary by the proprietors. This is all stored and updated securely on our online platform.

Safe Working

Corfe Valley staff must always work to ensure a safe working environment for all. When working 1:1 with a pupil, a staff member must ensure they follow all safeguarding process and procedures. They must also ensure other staff are aware that they are working 1:1 with a child and are available to support if circumstances necessitate it. When it is necessary for a member of staff to be alone with a pupil on the premises but outside of the building, they must ensure other staff are aware of their plans and take a radio so they can provide updates and/or call for assistance if required.

Special Educational Needs And/Or Disabilities

The children and young people with have at our setting have mild to severe SEND needs and/or certain health conditions and can therefore face additional safeguarding challenges. Staff are aware that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- being more prone to peer group isolation than other children
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

Staff will support such students in expressing any concerns they may have and will be particularly vigilant to any signs or indicators of abuse, discussing this with the DSL as appropriate. Any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will entail close liaison with the DSL or DDSL and named person with oversight for SEN.

Staff Behaviour

All new staff and volunteers are made aware of expectations regarding appropriate behaviour during Safeguarding induction and are given a copy of the Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning's Code of Conduct.

Staff will be expected to:

- Treat all children with respect
- Set a good example by conducting themselves appropriately
- Involve children in decision-making which affects them
- Encourage positive and safe behaviour among children
- Be a good listener



- Be alert to changes in a child's behaviour
- Recognise that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of abuse
- Read and understand all of the setting's safeguarding and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, physical contact, online/e-safety and information sharing
- Ask the child's permission before doing anything for them which is of a physical nature, such as assisting with dressing or administering first aid
- Maintain appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between children and avoid the use of sexualised or derogatory language
- Maintain practitioner standards and boundaries at all times on and off the school site
- Be aware that the personal and family circumstance and lifestyles of some children lead to an increased risk of neglect and or abuse
- Not be involved in any activity which is illegal and may pose a risk to children e.g. access to child pornography, extremist or radicalisation activities
- Declare any offences or involvement with the police relevant to their employment

APPENDIX 1 –SIGNS AND TYPES OF ABUSE

The staff at Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning are aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. They can occur from within or outside families, in or out of school, from within peer groups or the wider community and/or online. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another and children can therefore be vulnerable to multiple threats.

Abuse is 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). Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Abuse can be:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse; and/or
- neglect.

UPSKIRTING

In April 2019 'upskirting' became a criminal offence under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act. The Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS) defines 'up skirting' as a colloquial term referring to the action of placing equipment such as a camera or mobile phone beneath a person's clothing to take a photograph without their consent, for sexual gratification or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm. In the revised Keeping Children Safe in Education this is seen as an example of peer on peer abuse and all staff should be aware. All staff are vigilant and if any member of staff becomes aware of incidents of 'upskirting' they must report it to the DSL/DDSL or report the incident to the police using 101.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

All staff are aware of indicators of abuse and neglect. Knowing what to look for is vital for the early identification of abuse and neglect and specific safeguarding issues such as child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. We understand at Corfe Valley that abuse,

neglect and related safeguarding events are rarely standalone in nature and often factors outside of our setting are associated.

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. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to affiliate offline abuse. Children may be abused in a family or community setting by those known to them, or more rarely, by others.

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. Staff are referred to DfE guidance Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment for further information.

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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education (also known as child-on-child abuse) in education and all staff should be aware of it and of the policy and procedure for dealing with it.

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.

Drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of drugs trafficking. The DSL or DDSL will consider a referral to the National Referral Mechanism as soon as possible if there are county line concerns, such as a child being a potential victim of modern slavery or human trafficking.

FORCED MARRIAGE

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. We understand here at Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning the important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage. Staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fm@fco.gov.uk.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 1) defines domestic abuse as any of the following behaviours, either as a pattern of behaviour, or as a single incident, between two people over the age of 16, who are 'personally connected' to each other:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional, or other abuse

The definition of Domestic Abuse applies to children if they see or hear, or experience the effects of, the abuse: and they are related to the abusive person.

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual identity, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home.

The National Domestic Abuse helpline can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Additional Information & Support

The Department for Education advice What to Do if You Are Worried a Child is Being Abused - Advice for Practitioners provides more information on understanding and identifying abuse and neglect. Examples of potential indicators of abuse and neglect are highlighted throughout the advice. The NSPCC website also provides useful additional information on abuse and neglect and what to look out for.

HOMELESSNESS

Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property. The DSL or DDSL will raise/progress any concerns about homelessness with the Local Housing Authority although this does not replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

LESBIAN, GAY, BI OR TRANS (LGBT)

Children who are LGBT can be targeted by their peers. In some cases, a student who is perceived by their peers to be LGBT (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBT.

CHILDREN AND THE COURT SYSTEM

Children are sometime required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed, and this will be stressful for them. Making child arrangements following separation can also be stressful and entrench conflict in families. Staff should be alert to the needs of such students and report any concerns to the DSL or DDSL in accordance with this policy.



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CHILDREN WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN PRISON

Children who have a parent in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. Staff should be alert to the needs of such students and report any concerns to the DSL or DDSL in accordance with this policy.



APPENDIX 2 - LOCAL SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS CONTACTS

If there are concerns about a child's welfare or worried that they are being abused, a referral can be made to:

DORSET AREA

Children's Social Care in Dorset - Dorset Children's Advice and Duty Service (ChAD)

Professionals Number: **01305 228558**

Dorset Families and Members of the Public: **01202 228866**;

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH & POOLE AREA

BCP Children's Service First Response Hub is the single point of contact for BCP Children's Social Care and Early Help. If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of children and young people or where you require support in agreeing an Early Help offer, the Children's Services First Response Hub is the first point of contact for everyone and provides access to all services for children and families living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole – Children's First Response Hub: 01202 735046

(childrensfirstresponse@bccpcouncil.gov.uk).

IN AN EMERGENCY / OUT OF HOURS:

The Children's Social Care Out of Hours service is the emergency response service for any child who is in crisis, needs urgent help or is at serious risk of significant harm. Hours of operation are 5pm to 9am from Monday to Friday, all day Saturdays and Sundays and all bank holidays.

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Dorset Out of Hours Service: 01305 228558;

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Out of Hours Service: **01202 738256**

(ChiddrensOOH@bccpcouncil.gov.uk)

Dorset LADO

LADO@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Non – Emergency Police 101

Emergency Police 999

NSPCC

help@nspcc.org.uk **0808 800 5000**

Appendix 3 – Record Keeping: Best Practice

DSL and DDSL to read and follow.

Corfe Valley uses the electronic online platform 'My Concern' and 'Sentry' for record keeping.

1. Introduction

The importance of good, clear child welfare and child protection record keeping has been highlighted repeatedly in national and local Serious Case Reviews.

It is the DSL's responsibility to ensure that child protection files, access, storage and transfer meet the required professional standards detailed in this policy.

Corfe Valley ensures we follow the Data Protection Act where records are securely kept, accurate, relevant, up to date and kept for no longer than is necessary for the purpose for which they were made.

Any electronic record keeping system should comply with the general standards set out below. (The 'My Concern' system in use in many local schools has been checked for compliance.)

2. Record to be made by an adult receiving a disclosure or abuse (when a child talks about abuse)

This record should be made as soon as possible **after** the child or young person has spoken and disclosed it verbally to the DSL. The facts should be accurately recorded in a non-judgmental way.

The record should ideally be on a standard 'concerns' form and include:

- What was said in child speak if possible.
- What was the context and who was present for the disclosure
- Any observations concerning the child's demeanour and any other injuries

The record about a disclosure of abuse should be passed to the DSL and retained in the child's Child Protection file as it could be needed for evidence.

3. Records kept by the DSL

Corfe Valley uses My Concern as the single standard pro forma for recording 'welfare' and child protection concerns. Hard copies of the concern forms are available in the event of not being able to access the online system.

The concern form should be passed to the DSL who will make a judgement about what action needs to be taken, in accordance with local inter-agency safeguarding procedures. The decision about any action, whether a referral is made to Social Care, will be recorded clearly by the DSL.

Concerns should be recorded in as much detail as possible as some may end up with nothing further than a conversation with the DSL but some could be at the other end of the scale and end up being heard in a court.

All 'lower level'/pastoral concerns about a child's welfare, which will generally have been discussed with parents/carers are kept in the child's main file. This is important as it enables staff to see any patterns emerging over a period of time.

4. Starting a child protection file

A child protection file does not necessarily mean that the learner is or has been the subject of a child protection conference or plan. 'Child Protection file' means a high level of concern which has warranted referral to/involvement of, and in most cases assessment by, child care social workers.

It is the responsibility of the DSL to start a child protection file when a social worker is or was involved e.g. a formal referral is made by Corfe Valley, Social Care inform us that they have commenced an assessment in relation to information from another source, a child protection file is forwarded to us from a previous educational setting or a child in care.

Where there is an allocated social worker because a child is disabled or a young carer and there are no child protection concerns then a child protection file should not be started.

5. The format of child protection files

A front sheet with key information about the learner and contact details of parents/carers, social worker and any other relevant professionals.

If the child is looked after the front sheet should include important information about legal status, parental responsibility, arrangements for contact with birth parents and extended family, levels of authority delegated to carers.

If the child or young person is or was subject of a child protection plan or in care/looked after, this should be highlighted in some way to make it immediately obvious to anyone accessing the record.

It is a multi-agency standard that children's child protection files must have at the front an up to date chronology of significant incidents or events and subsequent actions/outcomes. Maintaining the chronology is an important part of the DSL role; it aids the DSL, Deputy and others to see the central issues and identify patterns of behaviour.

It should make sense as a stand alone document and easy to follow in terms of what the concerns are/have been, whether the concerns have escalated and why, plus the actions taken by the educational setting to support and protect the child. The file should be well organised and include, as appropriate, any 'concern forms', copies of correspondence, child protection meetings, documents relating to children in care etc.

6. Storage

All records relating to child protection concerns are sensitive and confidential so will be kept in a secure cabinet.

7. Sharing of and access to child protection records

Access of and sharing of information should be on a need-to-know basis, decided case by case. The DSL is the best person to decide this.

Parents are entitled to see their child's child protection file.

References by name to children other than the learner who is the subject of the file should be removed when disclosing records, unless consent is obtained. Care must also be taken to ensure all identifying information is removed from the copy of the record to be shared.

8. Transfer of child protection records

When a child or young person transfers to another provision the DSL should inform the new establishment as soon as possible that a child protection record exists. The original records must be passed on either by hand or sent by recorded delivery.

9. Retention of records

Corfe Valley will retain records for as long as the child remains with us and then transfer as described above.

The Independent Inquiry into Sexual Abuse has instructed relevant organisations, including schools, that they should NOT destroy, for the foreseeable future, any of their records that could potentially come within the scope of the inquiry.

10. Electronic child protection records

Electronic records must be password protected. Electronic files must only be passed onto educational settings electronically if there is a secure system in place.

APPENDIX 4 – WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD BEING ABUSED

Staff member has concerns about a child's welfare

Be alert to signs of abuse and question any unusual behaviours

When a child or young person discloses abuse or neglect

Listen and take the allegation seriously, reassure them and keep them safe.

- Listen carefully
- Avoid showing shock
- Observe child's demeanour
- Explain carefully that the information shared does need to be shared you cannot keep this a secret.
 - Allow the child or young person to explain at their own pace and do not interrupt
 - Avoid asking leading questions – only ask for clarification
 - Reassure the child that they have done the right thing talking about it
 - Explain what will happen next and who you will share information with
 - Do not ask the child to repeat a disclosure to anyone else
 - Do not raise the allegation with possible abuser (parent/staff/other)

After disclosure – login and complete 'My Concern' once the form is completed, it will automatically alert the DSL

Discuss concerns with DSL or DDSL in the absence of the DSL.

The DSL will consider further actions required, including consultation with CHAD and/or current social worker if applicable. Concerns and discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions should be recorded on My Concern.

Still have concerns – **refer to CHAD/current Social Worker (within 24 hours)**

No longer has safeguarding concerns.

ChAD/Social Worker

1. *Acknowledg receipt of referral*
2. *Decide on next course of action (within 1 working day)*
3. *Feedback decision to referrer (e.g. further assessment including Strategy discussions/child protection enquires, no further action required)*

Children's Advice and Duty Service (ChAD) – Professionals Number:

01305 228558

BCP – Children's First Response Hub:

01202 735046

Additional Needs

Consult with relevant agencies and undertake an Early Help CAF and Team around the Child meetings as appropriate