

Corfe Valley Outdoor Learning Ltd

Safeguarding Policy & Procedures

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

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Policy Statement

Safeguarding determines the actions that we take to keep children safe and protect them from harm in all aspects of their time at Corfe Valley. As a provision we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our young people. All staff at Corfe Valley 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.

At Corfe Valley we take actions to prevent harm to our young people by promoting wellbeing, creating a safe and nurturing environment, giving our young people the tools to feel valued, responding to any concerns in a timely manner. This Policy has regard to the following guidance and advice and amendments from time to time:

- Education Act
- Teaching Standards
- Prevent
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools
- The use of social media from Online Radicalisation
- KCSIE 2024

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.

Values & Aims

At Corfe Valley we all take safeguarding our young people seriously and we all recognise our duty of care as adults to protect them from harm. Safeguarding our young people is everyone’s responsibility and everyone who encounters our young people, and their families has a role to play. At Corfe Valley will ensure this is done by having a child centred approach with the child’s best interests always considered.

We will support all our young people by encouraging self-esteem, promoting a caring, safe, and positive environment, and building trusting relationships. We will also ensure appropriate information is shared confidentially and notify the correct professionals as soon as there is cause for concern.

Areas of Safeguarding

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024) and the Ofsted inspection framework (2024), have highlighted and separated several safeguarding areas: -

Emerging or high-risk issues; Those related to the pupils as an individual; other safeguarding issues affecting pupils; and those related to the running of the provision.

Terminology

Safeguarding is defined in the Children Act 2004 as protecting from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health and development; ensuring that children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care; and work in a way that gives the best life chances and transition to adulthood. Our safeguarding practice applies to every young person.

The term Staff applies to all those working for Corfe valley, full time or part time.

Child refers to all young people who have not reached their 18th birthday.

Parents refers to birth parents and other adults in a parenting role for example adoptive parents, guardians, stepparents, and foster cares.

Key personal

The designated safeguarding lead for Corfe Valley is:

Kirstie Smith

The deputy designated safeguarding leads are:

Tom Smith / Kate Unwin

Part 1 – High risk and emerging safeguarding issues

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.

As a provision, we will consider the various factors that can impact the life of any of our young people about whom we have concerns about. We will consider the level of influence that these factors have on their ability to be protected and remain free from harm, particularly around child exploitation or criminal activity.

What life is like for a child outside of the provision, within the home, within the family and within the community are key considerations when the DSL is looking at concerns.

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.

Preventing Radicalisation & Extremism

Our prevent lead at Corfe Valley is Kirstie Smith. The prevent duty requires that all staff are aware of the signs that a child may be vulnerable to radicalisation. The risks include, but are not limited to, political, environmental, animal rights, or faith-based extremism that may lead to a child becoming radicalised. All staff have received prevent training/undertaken e-learning/received awareness training in order that they can identify the signs of children being radicalised.

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 social media or the internet, and at different settings.

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.

Gender based violence/violence against woman and girls

The government has a strategy looking at specific issues faced by woman and girls. Within the context of this safeguarding policy the following sections are how we respond to violence against girls: female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour-based violence and teenage relationship abuse all fall under this strategy.

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 no for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and woman in many ways. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue, and hence interferes with the natural function of girls 'and woman's bodies.

The age at which girls undergo FGM varies enormously according to the community. The procedure may be carried out when the girl is new-born, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during the first pregnancy. However, the majority of cases of FGM are thought to take place between the ages of 5 and 8 and therefore girls within that age bracket are at a higher risk.

FGM is illegal in the UK.

On the 31 October 2015, it became mandatory for teachers to report known cases of FGM to the police. 'Known' cases are those where either a girl informs the person that an act of FGM – however described – has been carried out on her, or where the person observes physical signs on a girl appearing to show that an act of FGM has been carried out and the person has no reason to believe that the act was, or was part of, a surgical operation within section 1 (2) (a) or (b) of the FGM Act. Such observations could be; difficulty walking and look uncomfortable, frequent urinary problems, prolonged absences, talking about pain. In these situations, the DSL will be informed, and the member of staff must call the police to report suspicion that FGM has happened.

At no time will staff examine a young person to confirm concerns.

Signs that a child may be at risk of FGM include, but not limited to; visiting a female relative, a special procedure to make them a woman or missing education to an at 'risk' country.

Forced Marriage

An alternative and more in-depth summery about the risk and impact of forced marriage on pupils can be found in the multi-agency guidance of the forced marriage unit page 32-36

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered 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 a marriage. In developing countries 11% of girls are married before the age of 15. One in 3 victims of forced marriage in the UK is under 18.

It is important that all members of staff recognise the presenting symptoms, how to respond if there are concerns and where to turn for advice.

Advice and help can be obtained nationally through the Forced Marriage Unit and locally through the local police safeguarding team or children's social care.

Staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fmfu@fco.gov.uk.

Characteristics that may indicate forced marriage, although each one is often very particular, they are likely to share several common and important characteristics including:

- An extended absence from their educational provision;
- Excessive parental restriction or sudden low motivation;
- A history of siblings leaving education to marry early;
- Poor performance;
- Evidence of self-harm;
- Social isolation
- Evidence of family disputes, domestic violence or running away from home

On their own, these characteristics may not indicate forced marriage. It is also important to avoid making assumptions about an individual pupil's circumstance or on the basis of stereotyping.

Honour-Based Abuse

Honour-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including FGM, forced marriage and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and include multiple perpetrators.

It is often linked to family or community members who believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with their unwritten rule of conduct. For example, honour-based abuse might be committed against people who:

- Want to get out of an arranged marriage
- Want to get out of a forced marriage
- Convert to a different faith from the family
- Are exploring their sexuality or identity

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

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual or psychological abuse
- Forced marriage
- Assault

Where staff are concerned that a child might be at risk of HBA, they must contact the DSI as a matter of urgency and the DSL will follow the usual safeguarding referral process; however, if it is clear a crime has been committed the police will be contacted.

Teenage Relationship Abuse

Relationship abuse can take place at any age and describes unacceptable behaviour between two people who are in a relationship.

Research has shown that teenagers do not always understand what may constitute abusive and controlling behaviours, e.g. checking someone's phone, telling them what to wear, who they can/can't see or speak to or coercing them to engage in activities they are not comfortable with. The government campaign "disrespect nobody" provides other examples of abusive behaviour within a relationship.

This lack of understanding can lead to these abusive behaviours feeling 'normal' and therefore left unchallenged, as they are not recognised as being abusive. If Corfe Valley has concerns about a child in respect of relationship abuse, it will report those concerns in line with procedures to the appropriate authorities as a safeguarding concern, a crime or both.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children

Sexual violence and sexual harassment (SVSH) can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

During annual training staff at Corfe Valley are taught what to do if they have a concern or receive a report regarding SVSH. Whilst any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment should be taken seriously, staff are aware it is more likely that girls will be the victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment.

Corfe Valley has a zero-tolerance approach to SVSH. We are clear that this is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up. It cannot be described as 'banter', 'having a laugh' or 'boys being boys'.

We will also take seriously any sharing of sexual images (photos, pictures or drawings) and ideas; sexual jokes, comments or taunting either in person or on social media or on-line sexual harassment.

We will follow part five in KCSiE (2024) child-on child sexual violence and sexual harassment.

'Making it clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, that it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated. It should never be passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh", "a part of growing up" or "boys being boys". Failure to do so can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worst cases scenarios a culture that normalises abuse, leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.'

'In addition, recognising, acknowledging, and understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and that even if there are no reports it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. Also challenging physical behaviour (potentially criminal in nature) such as grabbing bottoms, breasts, and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.'

All staff at Corfe Valley will maintain the attitude that "it could happen here".

Upskirting

In 2019 the Voyeurism Offences Act came into force and made the practice of upskirting illegal. 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. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

If any staff become aware that upskirting has occurred, this will be treated as a sexual offence and reported to the DSL and onwards to the police.

Behaviours that would be considered as sexual harassment which may be pre-cursors to upskirting, such as the use of reflective surfaces or mirrors to view underwear or genitals, will not be tolerated.

The Trigger Trio

The term 'Trigger Trio' has replaced the previous phrase 'Toxic Trio' which was used to describe the issues of domestic violence, mental ill-health and substance misuse which have been identified as common features of families where harm to adults and children has occurred.

The Trigger Trio are viewed as indicators of increased risk of harm to children and young people. In an analysis of Serious Cases Reviews undertaken by Ofsted in 2011, they found that in nearly 75% of these cases two or more of the triggers were present. These factors will have a contextual impact on the safeguarding of children and young people.

Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional, and economical abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse, regardless of sexual identify, age, ethnicity and domestic abuse and take place inside or outside the home.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the contact of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing this can have long lasting emotional and psychological effects on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support. Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Indicators that a child is living within a relationship with domestic abuse may include:

- Being withdrawn
- Suddenly behaving differently
- Anxiety
- Clingy
- Depressed
- Aggression
- Problems sleeping
- Eating disorders
- Bed wetting
- Missing education
- Obsessive behaviours
- Use of drugs and alcohol
- Self-harm
- Suicidal

These behaviours themselves do not indicate that a child is living with domestic abuse but should be considered as indicators that this may be the case.

If staff believe that a child is living with domestic abuse, this will be reported to the DSL for referral, to be considered by children's social care.

Parental mental health

The term 'mental ill health' is used to cover a wide range of conditions, from eating disorders, mild depression and anxiety to psychotic illnesses such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Parental mental illness does not necessarily have an adverse impact on a child's developmental needs, but it is essential to always assess its implications for each child in the family.

For children, the impact of poor parental mental health can include:

- The child's physical and emotional needs being neglected
- The child acting as a young carer
- The child having restricted social activities
- The child finding it difficult to concentrate
- The child missing education
- Witnessing self-harm and suicide attempts

If staff become aware of any of the above indicators, or others that suggest a child is suffering due to parental mental health, the information will be shared with the DSL to consider a referral to children's social care.

Parental Substance misuse

Substance misuse applies to the misuse of alcohol as well as drug use, defined by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs as drug use which has 'serious negative consequences of a physical, psychological, social and interpersonal, financial or legal nature for users and those around them.'

This becomes relevant to safeguarding our young people if parenting capacity is likely to be seriously impaired. For children, the impact could include:

- Inadequate food, heat and clothing
- Lack of engagement or interest from parents
- Behavioural difficulties
- Bullying
- Isolation
- Tiredness
- Injuries
- Taking on a young carer role
- Poor attendance

If staff become aware of any of the above indicators, or others that suggest a child is suffering due to parental substance misuse, the information will be shared with the DSL to consider a referral to children's social care.

Young Carers

As many as 1 in 12 children and young people provide care for another person. This could be a parent, a relative or a sibling and for different reasons such as disability. These young carers can miss out on opportunities. Corfe Valley may refer a young carer to children's social care for a carers assessment to be carried out.

Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children (MET)

Given the close link between all these issues, there has been a considered response to view them as potentially linked, so that cross over of risk is not missed.

Children Absent from Education

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.

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. 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 quickly see any patterns of absences which can then be passed on to the Local Authority and all those involved with the care of the child.

The DSL will monitor unauthorised absences and take appropriate action including notifying the local authority. We will consider:

- Are they missing provision sessions due to a care role?
- Are other young people missing sessions and does this raise the risk of SVSH between young people, exploitation, and substance abuse?
- Is there a pattern in missed sessions e.g. always after the weekend?
- Can we contact the family?
- Do we have any concerns about radicalisation?
- Any concerns of abuse?
- Does the parent have any known medical needs? Is the child safe?

Children Missing from Home or Care

It is known that children who go missing are at risk of suffering significant harm, and there are specific risks around children running away and the risk of sexual exploitation.

The police definition of ‘missing’ is: ‘Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located, and their well-being or otherwise confirmed.’

Authorities need to be alert to the risk of sexual exploitation or involvement in drugs, gangs or criminal activity, trafficking and to be aware of local ‘hot spots. Child protection procedures must be initiated in collaboration with children’s social care services wherever there are concerns that a child who is missing may be suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration or nonpenetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing and touching outside of clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities or grooming a child in preparation for abuse including via the internet.

CSE can occur over time or be a one-off and could happen without the child’s knowledge by sharing videos or images on social media.

CSE can affect any child, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited.

KCSiE explains:

- Boys can be targeted just as easily as girls
- Perpetrators can be woman not just men
- Children with learning difficulties can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation
- It can be isolated or organised

Indicators a child may be at risk of CSE 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.

Child Criminal Exploitation (including county lines)

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 into any criminal activity.’ 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.

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.

A current trend in criminal exploitation of children and young people is ‘county lines’ which refer to a ‘phone line through which drug deals can be made. An order is placed on the number and typically a young person will deliver the drugs to the specified address and collect the money for the deal. These lines are owned and managed by organised crime gangs, often from larger cities, who are expanding their markets into rural areas. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as ‘plugging’, where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by the type of exploitation, as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

Indicators that a child may be criminally exploited include:

- 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
- Older males hanging around and driving

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.

Serious Violence

Serious violence is becoming a factor for those who are involved in criminal exploitation. It can also be an indication of gang involvement. All staff are made aware of the risks and indicators which may signal that a child or family member is at risk of serious violence.

Indicators can be:

- Absence from education
- Change in friendships
- Self-harm
- Significant changes in well being
- Signs of assault
- Unexplained injuries

All staff at Corfe Valley have undertaken training in serious violence which includes knife crime.

Trafficked Children and modern slavery

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

Human trafficking is defined by the UNHCR in respect of children as a process that is a combination of:

- Movement (including within the UK)
- Control, through harm/threat of harm or fraud
- For exploitation

Any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim. There is significant evidence that children are being trafficked internally within the UK and this is regarded as a more common form of trafficking in the UK.

There are a number of indicators which suggest that a child may have been trafficked into the UK, and may still be controlled by the traffickers or receiving adults. These are:

- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse
- Unwanted pregnancy
- History of going missing and unexplained moves
- Works in various locations
- Limited freedom of movement
- Cared for by adults who are not their parents
- Has not been registered with or attended a GP practise.

- Evidence of drug and alcohol abuse
- Relationships with significantly older adults
- Expensive clothing, mobile phone setc.
- Low self-image
- Inappropriate use of the internet

It is easy to have the misconception that modern slavery is something that happens overseas. However, the government estimates that tens of thousands of slaves are in the UK today.

Young people are often forced to work in restaurants, nail bars, car washes etc. and are hiding in plain sight within the UK. Other forms of slavery such as sex slaves or household slaves are more hidden but have also been rescued within the UK.

If staff believe that a child is being trafficked or is a slave, this will be reported to the DSL and a referral will be considered to children's social care.

Child abduction

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. It can be committed by parents or other family members and by strangers. Further information is available at www.actionagainstabduction.org

Some key facts:

- Nearly three quarters of children abducted abroad by a parent are aged between 0 and 6 years old
- Roughly equal numbers of boys and girls
- 70% of abductors are mothers
- Many abductions occur during school holidays

If Corfe Valley become aware of an abduction or risk of one we will seek advice and support from police and children's social care to confirm that they are aware and seek clarity on what actions we are able to take.

Technologies

Technology is continuously increasing and improving. The majority of our young people have a smart phone and access at home to the internet and online tools to communicate with friends both locally and nationally. While technology itself is not harmful, it can be used by others to make children vulnerable and to abuse them.

The issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas 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.

Online Safety and Social Media

With the current speed of on-line change some parents have only a limited understanding of online risks and issues. Some of the risks could be:

- Unwanted contact
- Grooming
- Online bullying and sexting
- Digital footprint
- Accessing inappropriate content
- AI and fake news/images

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

- Educate 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.

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 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 cyberbullying, 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

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

If any staff from Corfe Valley become aware of any cyberbullying, we will need to consider each case individually as to any criminal act that may have been committed. We will pass on information to the police if we feel it is appropriate or we are required to do so.

Sexting

‘Sexting’ often refers to the sharing of naked pictures or videos through mobile phones and/or the internet. It also includes underwear shots, sexual poses and explicit text messaging and is sometimes referred to as youth produced sexual imagery.

The use of sexting as a revenge in a relationship breakdown is more common with sexting also being used as a form of sexual exploitation.

The average age of first smartphone or camera enabled tablet for a child is 6 years old and therefore sexting is an issue that requires awareness raising across all ages.

On-line sexual abuse

Corfe Valley will:

- Report to the police any on-line sexual abuse or harmful content we are made aware of. This could be sending abusive messages, harassing and misogynistic messages, sharing nude pictures and videos and coercing others.
- We will seek guidance from the NPCC ‘when to call the police’ and any other relevant body
- We will continue to educate our young people age appropriately and raise awareness
- We will support our young people and families if they become victims of abuse

Gaming

Online gaming is an activity in which all of our young people are involved in. Corfe Valley will raise awareness by:

- Raising awareness to parents and helping them to identify the most effective way to safeguard their children.

Online reputation

Online reputation is the opinion others get of a person when they encounter them online. The majority of organisations and work establishments now check a persons digital footprint before considering applications for positions or places on courses.

Grooming

On-line grooming is the process by which one person with an inappropriate sexual interest in children will approach a child on-line, with the intention of developing a relationship with that child, to be able to meet them in person and intentionally cause them harm.

At Corfe Valley we will strive to make our young people aware by:

- Ensuring they only have friends online that they know in real life
- We will help parents to recognise signs of grooming
- Discuss with our young people about staying safe online

Those children normally targeted for grooming are often offered something ideological such as an economic incentive or something physical, something that will make them feel better.

Anyone can be at risk. Age, social standing and education do not necessarily matter as much as we may have thought and all kinds of people do become radicalised, however, the more vulnerable a person is the easier it is to influence their thinking.

Indicators of grooming can be:

- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Becoming secretive
- Closing computers/phones/iPad down when someone is near by
- Not disclosing who they are talking to online.
- Sudden changes in mood

Part 2 - Safeguarding issues relating to individual young people needs

Children and the Court System

We recognise that children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. We know that this can be very stressful and emotional and will support any young person through this.

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.

Young people with a medical condition

All staff will be made aware of any condition and how best to support the young person. Medical forms will give advice and have all key contact details on and shared with staff.

An individual healthcare plan may be put in place to support the child and their medical needs.

Young people with a medical condition (out of provision)

There will be occasions when children are temporarily unable to attend Corfe Valley because of their medical needs. These children and young people are likely to be:

- Those suffering from long-term illness
- Post injury periods
- With long term mental health problems

Special educational needs and 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.

Mental Health

At Corfe Valley we get to know our young people very well and are able to spot subtle changes in their behaviour that may indicate they are struggling with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. We are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Events in a child's life that can disrupt their mental health can be:

- loss or separation resulting from death, parental separation, divorce, hospitalisation, loss of friendships, family conflict
- Life changes such as the birth of a sibling, moving house or changing schools
- Traumatic events such as abuse, domestic violence, bullying , accidents, injuries

Corfe Valley will support our young people and their families and where the needs require additional professional support, referrals will be made to the appropriate team or service with the appropriate agreement.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, they will take immediate action, raising the issue with the DSL or deputy.

Self-Harm & 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.

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. Some indicators are:

- 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

An assessment of ant 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
- Sign or symptoms of a mental health disorder such as depression
- Previous history
- Delusional thoughts and behaviours

- Feeling overwhelmed and out of control

Part 3 - Other safeguarding issues that may potentially have an impact on pupils.

Anti-Bullying

Corfe Valley has a Anti-Bullying Policy as well as a child friendly version available.

Prejudice-based abuse

Although this sort of crime is collectively known as 'Hate Crime' the offender does not have to go as far as being motivated by 'hate', they only have to exhibit 'hostility'.

This could be seen as:

- Threatened or actual assault
- Name calling, insults, for example racist jokes
- Hate graffiti.
- Verbal abuse
- Refusal to cooperate with other young people because of their protected characteristics
- Hostile comments
- Provocative behaviour

Corfe Valley will:

- Clearly identify prejudice-based incidents and hate crimes and monitor the frequency and nature of them
- Take preventative action
- Recognise the wider implications
- Supporting any young person who becomes a victim of hate crime
- Ensure that staff are familiar with a range of restorative practices to address bullying and prevent it happening again

Drug & substance misuse

Corfe Valley refers to the government guidance document on the safeguarding in education page.

Faith abuse

The number of known cases of child abuse linked to accusations of 'possession' or 'witchcraft' is small, but children involved can suffer damage to their physical and mental health, their capacity to learn, their ability to form relationships and to their self-esteem. There are various reasons that make a child more vulnerable to an accusation of 'possession' or 'witchcraft'. These include family stress and/or a change in the family structure.

If Corfe Valley becomes aware of a child who is being abused in this context, the DSL will follow the normal referral route to children's social care.

Gangs and Youth Violence

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. Although the majority of young people will not be affected by serious violence or gangs these problems do still occur and could happen, even at low levels which could cause a significant impact.

Corfe Valley has a duty and a responsibility to protect our young people. Attendance and engagement can have a powerful impact on helping to keep young people away from this lifestyle. At Corfe Valley we can help prevent negative behaviour and escalation by:

- Help our young people to resolve conflicts
- Challenge and discuss openly aggressive behaviour and ways we can help prevent such occurrences
- Make referrals to appropriate external agencies
- Carefully help with transitions when our young people move on from us

Private fostering

Private fostering is an arrangement by a child's parents for their child (under 16 or 18 if disabled) to be cared for by another adult who is not closely related and is not a legal guardian with parental responsibility, for 28 days or more.

It is not private fostering if the carer is a close relative to the child such as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt.

The Law requires that the carers and parents must notify the Children's Services Department of any private fostering arrangements.

If Corfe Valley becomes aware that a young person is being privately fostered, we will inform the Children's Service Department and inform both the parents and carers that we have done so.

Part 4 - Safeguarding processes

Safer Recruitment

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. On all recruitment panels there is at least one member of staff who has undertaken safer recruitment training.

The recruitment process checks the identity, criminal record (enhanced DBS), mental and physical capacity, right to work in the UK, professional qualifications and seeks confirmation of the applicants' experience.

Staff Induction

The DSL or deputy will provide all new staff with training to enable them to both fulfil their role and also to understand our safeguarding policy, staff behaviour policy and code of practice, and part one of KCSiE.

Health & Safety

Corfe Valley has a comprehensive Health & Safety Policy that is in line with the Health & Safety at Work act 1974 and the regulations made under the act.

Corfe Valley will assess any hazards and record these along with any control measures that are required. All plans take on a common sense and proportionate stance with an aim to allow activities to continue rather than preventing them from taking place.

Site Security

Corfe Valley is a secure site on a working small holding but we do recognise that the site is only as secure as the people who use it. Therefore, all people on site must adhere to the rules. These are:

- All gates are locked at all times no matter how short of a time you are in the adjoining field.
- We have a comprehensive policy and plans in place if an intruder were to get onto site.
- We have updated and very comprehensive risk assessments.
- All visitors to site must be met and signed in and wear a visitor badge to alert our young people to who they are.
- All windows and doors locked on all cabins at the end of the day before leaving site.

Off site visits

A particular strand of health and safety is looking at risks when undertaking off site visits. Corfe Valley has a separate Off Site Visits policy and Transport Policy and all off site visits are risk assessed and pre visited.

Physical Intervention (use of reasonable force)

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.

Taking and the use and storage of images

Corfe Valley will always seek consent from the parent/carer before a young person starts with us for taking and publishing photos or videos that contain images that are sufficiently detailed to identify the individual.

Transporting pupils

Corfe Valley often takes our young people off site and transports them on local trips. We have a separate transport policy for this to ensure the safety and welfare of our young people. This is all based on guidance from the local authority and all insurance is checked and that the vehicle is roadworthy.

Disqualification under the childcare act

The Childcare Act of 2006 was put in place to prevent adults who have been cautioned or convicted of a number of specific offences from working within childcare.

We will check for disqualification under the Childcare Act as part of our safer recruitment processes for any offences committed by staff members.

Effective Inter-Agency Around Safeguarding

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews help 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, the child has died, being 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.

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.

Early help

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 child may benefit from early help but our staff will be particularly alert to a child who:

- Has special educational needs
- Is a young carer
- Showing signs of being drawn into gang involvement
- Frequently missing
- At risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Is a privately fostered child

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>

Child 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.

Recording Safeguarding Concerns

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.

- 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.

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 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.

Flow Chart

