

Monkfield Park



**Primary School and
Care & Learning Centre**

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Approved by the Governing Body in:

September 2025

**Amendments shown in red to reflect updates in Keeping Children Safe in
Education 2025.**

INTRODUCTION

Monkfield Park fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (as amended), and the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (as amended) to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. 'Children' includes everyone under the age of 18.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (**September 2025**). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under Part One of this document, which are set out below.

Staff should read the above document together with 'Annex B' of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', **2025**, if they are working directly with children. For those staff who do not work directly with children Annex A can be issued instead but this is a matter for the setting/school/college to decide.

Through their day-to-day contact with children and direct work with families all staff in Monkfield Park have a responsibility to:

- Identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- Identify children who may benefit from early help
- Know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused, neglected or exploited
- Follow the referral process if they have a concern.

This policy sets out how Monkfield Park's governing body discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who attend Monkfield Park. Our policy applies to **all** staff, paid and unpaid, working in Monkfield Park including governors. Teaching assistants, mid-day supervisors, office staff as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents/carers may also contact Monkfield Park and its governors.

It is consistent with the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board procedures.

There are four main elements to our policy:

PREVENTION through the teaching and pastoral support offered to children and the creation and maintenance of a whole setting protective ethos;

PROCEDURES for identifying and referring cases, or suspected cases, of abuse or exploitation. The definitions of the categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A);

SUPPORTING CHILDREN particularly those who may have been abused or witnessed violence towards others;

PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Processes are followed to ensure that those who are unsuitable to work with children are not employed.

This policy is available to parents on request and is on the school website.

1.0 PREVENTION

- 1.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.
- 1.2 Monkfield Park will therefore:
 - 1.2.1 Establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe, including in a digital context, and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
 - 1.2.2 Ensure children know that there are trusted adults at Monkfield Park whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.
 - 1.2.3 Tailor our curriculum to be age and stage of development appropriate so that it meets the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individual children, including children who are victims of abuse, and children with special educational needs or disabilities.
 - 1.2.4 Incorporate into the curriculum, activities and opportunities that enable children to develop their understanding of stereotyping, prejudice and equality.
 - 1.2.5 Ensure that all Monkfield Park staff challenge instances of prejudice related behaviour, including but not limited to, instances of sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobic and sexual violence/harassment. Any prejudice related incidents will be recorded on the Prejudice Reporting for Education site and logged on My Concern. Such incidents will be responded to in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.
 - 1.2.6 Incorporate into the curriculum, activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse and exploitation in all contexts **based on the current 2019 RSE guidance.**

During the course of the year, schools will be moving towards delivering the following content from the 2025 RSE guidance:

- That families are important for children growing up safe and happy because they can provide love, security and stability.
- How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.
- That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded. Children should learn skills for developing caring, kind friendships.
- How to recognise when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, and how to get support when needed.
- How to seek help when needed, including when they are concerned about violence, harm, or when they are unsure who to trust.
- How to critically evaluate their online relationships and sources of information, including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. For example, that people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone else, or pretending to be a child, and that this can lead to dangerous situations. How to recognise harmful content or harmful contact, and how to report this.
- That the internet contains a lot of content that can be inappropriate and upsetting for children, and where to go for advice and support when they feel worried or concerned about something they have seen or engaged with online.

- That each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe contact, including physical contact.
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.
- How to report abuse, concerns about something seen online or experienced in real life, or feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so. How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard. Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.

(Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) & Health Education, DfE, 2019)
 (Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) & Health Education, DfE, 2025 – to be fully implemented by 2026)

1.2.7 We use the Personal Safety Units from the Cambridgeshire PSHE Service Personal Development Programme. These units support children to recognise if they are feeling safe or unsafe in their relationships with family, friends and online. This includes considering the importance of permission seeking and giving in relationships, and the sort of boundaries which are appropriate both on and offline. Children are encouraged to consider the qualities they would look for in a trusted adult, how to judge whether a secret feels safe or unsafe and how to seek support if they are asked to keep an unsafe secret. Children learn that each person’s body belongs to them, the correct language for body parts, including genitals, how to identify unsafe or inappropriate physical contact. With the older children, they learn about what sorts of behaviours constitute abuse and neglect (PS5-6). All children have opportunities to practice seeking help or advice from others, including from their Networks of Support, and develop their problem-solving strategies, which can be applied in a range of contexts.

1.2.8 We use Safer Spaces Toolkit developed by the Cambridgeshire PSHE Service which supports schools with listening to pupil voice, building awareness and engaging in reflection as part of a whole school approach to preventing sexist attitudes and behaviours which cause others to feel unsafe.

2.0 PROCEDURES

2.1 We will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board ‘Multi-Agency Procedures’. A copy of these procedures can be found on their website:
[Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

2.2. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Annie Howell (Headteacher)

2.2.1 The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Kate Major (Deputy Head and INCo, Monkfield Park Primary School)
Paula Ray (Deputy Head and INCo, Monkfield Park Primary School)
Lauren O'Rourke (Director for Pupil Pastoral, Monkfield Park Primary School)
Kate Brown (Deputy Manager, Monkfield Park Care and Learning Centre)
Emma Walsh (Family Support Worker, Monkfield Park Primary School)

2.2.2 The nominated governor for Safeguarding is:

Melanie Webster

In addition, we have the following roles:

2.2.3 The Prevent Lead is:

Annie Howell (Headteacher)

2.2.4 The Domestic Abuse Lead is:

Annie Howell (Headteacher)

2.2.5 The Online Safety Lead is:

Annie Howell (Headteacher)

2.3 The Governing body will:

- 2.3.1 Appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL will take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Whilst the activities of the DSL can be delegated to appropriately trained deputies, (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, DDSL), the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL and cannot be delegated.
- 2.3.2 Ensure that the role of DSL and DDSL is explicit in the role holder's job description (as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025 Annex C).
- 2.3.3 Ensure that the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the setting to carry out the duties of the post. Give the DSL the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025, Annex C). Ensure that the DSL and deputies have undertaken the two-day training provided by the Cambridgeshire Education Safeguarding Team and that this training is updated **at least every two years**.

- 2.3.4 Ensure that in addition to the formal training set out above, the DSL and DDSLs refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via updates, meetings or additional training **at least annually**.
- 2.3.5 Ensure that every member of staff, paid and unpaid, and the governing body knows who the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the **point of induction**.

At Monkfield Park members of staff are required to log a concern via the electronic system (My Concern) and submit it to the DSL and DDSLs immediately.

Visitors to the setting are required to complete a logging concern form and pass it in person to the DSL/DDSL immediately;

- 2.3.6 Ensure that the DSL or DDSL are always available (during school and Care and Learning Centre hours, during term-time) to discuss any safeguarding concerns and that all staff are clear upon the course of action they must take if in exceptional circumstances the DSL and DDSL are not available.

In the unlikely event that the DSL or one of the five DDSLs are unavailable, staff should speak to a member of the senior leadership team who will take advice from children's social care.

- 2.3.7 Liaise with the three safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Integrated Care Board and Police) as appropriate and work with other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2023.
- 2.3.8 Nominate a governor for safeguarding who has undertaken appropriate training.
- 2.3.9 Ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:
- the name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies and their role
 - how to identify the signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation, understanding that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of Monkfield Park, inside and outside of home, and online
 - that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful
 - how to pass on and record concerns about a child
 - that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse and exploitation; and for referring safeguarding concerns to the DSL/DDSL
 - what is meant by, and the importance of, showing professional curiosity
 - that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn
 - where to find the Multi–Agency Procedures on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website
 - their role in the early help/targeted support process
 - the process for making referrals to children's social care
 - the safeguarding response to children who are absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions and/or prolonged periods
 - the role of filtering and monitoring and the process for reporting issues.
- 2.3.10 Ensure all staff receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations,

applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring, at induction. The training should be **regularly updated**, as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

- 2.3.11 Ensure that **all** staff recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies, including low level concerns and allegations against staff.
- 2.3.12 Ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on Monkfield Park and the staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties in the setting. This can be found on/in our website.
- 2.3.13 Ensure that this policy is available publicly either via the school website: <http://www.monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk> or by other means
- 2.3.14 Help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children who have or have had a social worker are experiencing with teachers and setting, school and college leadership staff.
- 2.3.15 Where children are educated off site or in alternative provision, Monkfield Park will obtain written information from the alternative provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at their establishment.
- 2.3.16 Where children are educated off site or in alternative provision, Monkfield Park and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. Where a school places a child with an alternative provision provider, it continues to be responsible for the safeguarding of that child and should be satisfied that the placement meets the child's needs.

Monkfield Park and the provider will jointly agree clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies. Written confirmation that the alternative provider has carried out appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working at the establishment will be sought by Monkfield Park. These written assurances are sought and held on file by Monkfield Park.

2.4 Multi-Agency Working

Monkfield Park will:

- 2.4.1 Work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all children.
- 2.4.2 Co-operate as required, in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' (2023), with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups.
- 2.4.3 Notify the relevant Social Care Team immediately if:
- it should have to **suspend or** exclude a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan
 - there is an unexplained absence of a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan
 - there is any change in circumstances to a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan.

2.4.4 When a child who is subject to a Child Protection Plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new setting immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Care Team will also be informed.

2.5 Record Keeping

Monkfield Park will:

2.5.1 Keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter to Children's Social Care immediately.

2.5.2 Records should include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern
- the child's wishes and feelings
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome
- a record of any discussion/communication with parents, other agencies etc.

2.5.3 Electronic records are stored on an identified, purpose-built, secure platform (MyConcern). In addition, appropriate secure storage arrangements are in place for any historic hardcopy safeguarding files.

2.5.4 Ensure all relevant safeguarding records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a child moves school/setting, within five days, in accordance with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025, (page 174) and the Cambridgeshire Education Safeguarding Team's Guidance on Keeping and Managing Child Safeguarding Records.

The DSL will consider whether it would be appropriate to share information with the new setting in advance of a child leaving.

2.5.5 Make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child at risk of harm.

2.5.6 Ensure all actions and decisions are led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child and rationales are included for all discussions and decisions made.

2.6 Confidentiality and information sharing

2.6.1 Information about children and their families is defined as 'special category data', i.e. information that identifies a living individual. Collection, storage and sharing of personal data is governed by the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Monkfield Park will:

2.6.2 Ensure staff and volunteers adhere to confidentiality protocols and that information is shared appropriately.

2.6.3 Ensure staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children, (as set out in 'Information Sharing; Advice for

practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, May 2024).

2.6.4 Ensure that if a member of staff receives a Subject Access Request (under the Data Protection Act 2018) from a child or parent they will refer the request to the DSL or Headteacher.

2.6.5 Ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputies will:

2.6.6 Disclose information about a child to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis, considering what is necessary, proportionate and relevant. Parental consent may be required.

2.6.7 Aim to gain consent to share information and be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm. Information may be shared without consent where to do so might place the child or another person at immediate risk of harm or prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

2.6.8 Record when decisions are made to share or withhold information, who information has been shared with and why. (See 'Working Together to Safeguard Children,' 2023)

2.6.9 In cases where the 'serious harm test' is met, Monkfield Park must withhold providing the data in compliance with settings' obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR. Where in doubt Monkfield Park should seek independent legal advice.

2.6.10 Seek advice about confidentiality from outside agencies if required. (See 'Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers,' DfE, May 2024).

2.7 Communication with Parents/Carers

Monkfield Park will:

2.7.1 Ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the setting and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties on the school website.

2.7.2 Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency unless the circumstances preclude this action.

2.7.3 Record what discussions have taken place with parents or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, for example if Monkfield Park believes that notifying parents could place the child or another person at immediate risk of harm or prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the rationale must be recorded. Records may subsequently be disclosable to relevant partner agencies if **a Child in Need or Child Protection Enquiry is undertaken.**

2.8 Child-on-Child Abuse

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as child-on-child abuse), and that it can happen both inside and outside of the setting, school or

college and online. By definition, it applies to abuse by one child of another child – regardless of the age, of stage of development, or any age differential between them.

We recognise that child-on-child abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include but is not limited to: bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse within intimate **personal relationships between children**; physical abuse; **harmful sexual behaviour**; sexual violence and sexual harassment **including upskirting, and online sexual harassment**; **child sexual exploitation**; **child criminal exploitation**; **hate incidents and hate crime**; **racism**; and initiation/ hazing type violence and rituals.

Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

2.8.1 All forms of child-on-child abuse are unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Monkfield Park will therefore:

2.8.2 Create a whole setting protective ethos in which child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

2.8.3 Provide training for staff about recognising and responding to child-on-child abuse,

2.8.4 Ensure that staff do not dismiss instances of child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and sexual harassment as an inevitable part of growing up or 'banter'.

2.8.5 Include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse, including abuse from their peers and online.

2.8.6 Provide high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and/or enrichment programmes including teaching about consent.

2.8.7 Ensure that staff members follow the procedures outlined in this policy when they become aware of child-on-child abuse, referring any concerns of child-on-child abuse to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) in line with safeguarding procedures.

2.8.8 Staff should be aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at greater risk. Monkfield Park will ensure that these children have a trusted adult in the setting to talk to.

2.8.9 Recognise the risk of intra familial harms and provide support to siblings following incidents when necessary.

2.8.10 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will refer to the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's [Child Sexual Behaviour Assessment Tool | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](#) if there is a concern that a young person may be displaying sexually harmful behaviours.

2.9 Dealing with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children

2.9.1 **Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two or more children of any age and sex, from primary through to secondary stage and into college. It can occur also through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group**

of children. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and face-to-face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attends the same setting, school or college.

Monkfield Park will:

- 2.9.2 Refer to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education - Part Five', 2025 for full details of procedures to be followed in such cases. Also see 'Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' (UKCIS, March 2024)
- 2.9.3 Make 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.
- 2.9.4 Provide training for staff on how to manage a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- 2.9.5 Make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.9.6 Reassure victims that they are being taken seriously, offer appropriate support and take the wishes of the victim into account when decision making.
- 2.9.7 Implement measures to keep the victim, alleged perpetrator and if necessary other children and staff members, safe. Record any risk assessments and keep them under review.
- 2.9.8 Give consideration to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.
- 2.9.9 Liaise closely with external agencies, including police and social care, when required.

3.0 SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Monkfield Park recognises that **any** child may be subject to abuse and 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 and as such will support all children by:

- 3.1 Providing curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation.
- 3.2 Creating an ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community.
- 3.3 Applying Monkfield Park's behaviour policy effectively. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the child's sense of self-worth. Monkfield Park will ensure that the child knows that some behaviour is unacceptable, but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- 3.4 Liaising with the senior mental health lead where safeguarding concerns are linked to mental health in the setting, school/college for advice on case management.

- 3.5 Liaising with other agencies which support the child such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help (Targeted Support) Teams.
- 3.6 Promoting supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances
- 3.7 **Recognising** that whilst **any** child may benefit from early help, staff are encouraged to consider the wider environmental factors present in a child's life which could pose a threat to their welfare or safety (**Risks outside the home**). Staff are required to be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for children in particular circumstances. Please see page 10 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, **2025** for the complete list. The list includes:
- 3.8 **Children with Disabilities, Certain Health Conditions, Additional Needs or Special Educational Needs**

We recognise that, statistically, children with additional needs, special educational needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are **more** vulnerable to abuse **and can face additional safeguarding challenges both online and offline**. Monkfield Park staff who deal with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse, **neglect and exploitation**.

Monkfield Park has children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. Monkfield Park will support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents/carers.

As part of the PSHE curriculum staff will teach children personal safety skills commensurate with their age, ability and needs. Children will be taught personal safety skills such as: how to recognise if they are feeling unsafe including within family relationships and friendships; how to ask for help; the difference between safe and unsafe secrets; the difference between safe and unsafe physical contact; and how to recognise and manage risk including online. The content of lessons will be shared with parents/carers so that these skills can be supported at home.

Monkfield Park has children who may have communication difficulties and we are aware that they are vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead, such children will often exhibit changes in behaviours or signs and indicators of abuse recognised by staff with a good knowledge of the child.

Where necessary, Monkfield Park will provide additional training to staff in the use of Makaton, PECS or other communication systems. Supervision by senior managers will be vigilant to create a protective ethos around the child.

Under the Equality Act, there is also a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and young people.

We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that disabled children know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

3.8.1 Young Carers

Monkfield Park recognises that children who are living in a home environment which requires them to act as a young carer for a family member **with an illness or disability, mental health condition or an addiction** can increase their vulnerability and that they may need additional support and protection.

Monkfield Park will: seek to identify young carers; offer additional support internally; signpost to external agencies; be particularly vigilant to the welfare of young carers and follow the procedures outlined in this policy, referring to Early Help or Social Care as required if concerns arise.

3.8.2 Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. Drug networks or gangs exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas. Exploitation can occur even if activity appears to be consensual.

All staff will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. These are referred to as Extra-Familial Harms/Contextual Safeguarding and/or Risks Outside the Home.

Monkfield Park will address indicators of child criminal exploitation with staff through training. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of criminal exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's [Contextual Risk Screening Tool | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk) and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

Monkfield Park recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and/or trafficking and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

3.8.3 Children at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation

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

CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Potential indicators of sexual exploitation will be addressed within staff training, including raising awareness with staff that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of abuse and may not recognise it as abuse. Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of child sexual exploitation arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board's [Contextual Risk Screening Tool | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk) and refer to Social Care if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk of CSE.

Monkfield Park recognises that young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and has procedures in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

At Monkfield Park we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to children who have gone missing through the Operation Encompass scheme. Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of missing child episodes with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) (DSL). On receipt of any information, the DSL will decide on the appropriate support the child may require. The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information.

3.8.4 **Children Persistently Absent from Education**

Monkfield Park recognises that children who have unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education, can act as a warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities including abuse, neglect, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, modern slavery, mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, and risk of FGM or forced marriage.

Monkfield Park monitors and follows up on the attendance of individual children closely, as outlined in the Attendance Policy, and analyses patterns of absence to aid early identification of concerning patterns of absence.

Monkfield Park endeavors to hold more than one emergency contact for each child to provide additional options to make contact with a responsible adult when a child who is absent from education is identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern.

When a child is absent from education, Monkfield Park follows the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing from Education guidance. Monkfield Park will inform Social Care if a child who is absent from education is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

3.8.5 **Children Misusing Drugs or Alcohol**

The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance misuse, is not necessarily sufficient in itself to **consider a Child in Need or Child Protection referral**. However, Monkfield Park will consider such action in the following situations:

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

- To believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as **sexual or criminal exploitation**
- **The child's substance misuse dependency is affecting their mental and physical health and social wellbeing**
- Where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse
- **Where the child's substance misuse dependency is putting the child at such risk that intensive specialist resources are required**
- Where the child is perceived to be at risk of harm through any substance associated criminality.

3.8.6 Children Living with Substance Misusing Parents/Carers

Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with Significant Harm to children, especially when combined with other features such as domestic **abuse**.

When Monkfield Park receives information about drug and alcohol abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures.

This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- **Parent/ carer/other family members drug and/or alcohol use is at a problematic level and are unable to provide care to child.**
- **Family home is used for drug taking / dealing / illegal activities.**
- Chaotic drug and alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
- **Child or household member found in possession of Class A or Class B drugs / drug paraphernalia found in home.**
- **Evidence of substance/drug misuse during pregnancy**

3.8.7 Children Living with Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 applies to those aged 16 or over 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.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact 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.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of child-on-child abuse is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16).

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are 'personally connected' regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour.

Monkfield Park recognises that where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships. Domestic Abuse can also affect children in their personal relationships as well as in the context of home life.

Staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy if concerns of Domestic Abuse arise. Monkfield Park will vigilantly monitor the welfare of children living in domestic abuse households, offer support to them and contribute to any Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) safety plan as required.

At Monkfield Park we are working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Police and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify and provide appropriate support to children who have experienced domestic abuse in their home; this scheme is called Operation Encompass.

In order to achieve this, Cambridgeshire's Education Safeguarding Team will share police information of all domestic **abuse** incidents to which Police have been called, where one of our children has been present, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) (DSL)/Domestic Abuse (DA) Lead.

On receipt of any information, the DSL/DA Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child may require. The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough *Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings*'.

3.8.8 **Children at risk of 'Honour- Based' Abuse (HBA) including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Honour-Based Abuse can be defined as:

'An incident or pattern of violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion, control or abuse (including but not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, economic, spiritual, faith-related or emotional abuse) motivated by the perpetrator's perception that an individual has shamed, or may shame, the perpetrator, the family, or community or has otherwise broken, or may break, the perceived norms of the community's accepted behaviours, including by speaking out about the abuse and where the perception of shame may also prevent a victim from accessing support or help.'

Monkfield Park takes these concerns seriously and staff are made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of HBA through training. Staff are required to treat all forms of HBA as abuse and follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 bans marriage for 16 and 17-year-olds, who no longer will be allowed to marry or enter a civil partnership, even if they have parental consent, as the legal age of marriage rises to 18.

It is now illegal and a criminal offence to exploit vulnerable children by arranging for them to marry, under any circumstances whether or not force is used.

Monkfield Park will manage any concerns relating to forced marriage sensitively and will report concerns immediately via the procedures outlined in this policy.

FGM is a procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK. Any indication that a child is at risk of FGM, where FGM is suspected, or where the woman is under 18, will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy. Staff will report concerns to the DSL, who will make appropriate and timely referrals to social care. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice and the case will still be referred to social care even if it is against the child's wishes.

In accordance with the Female Genital Mutilation Act, it is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police **via the DSL**. Teachers should still consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve social care as appropriate.

Children **previously in care or who have returned home to their family from care**

Monkfield Park recognises that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable. Monkfield Park will vigilantly monitor the welfare of previously looked after children, keep records and notify Social Care as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern in accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board Multi-Agency Procedures.

3.8.9 Children showing signs of Abuse, Neglect and/or Exploitation

Monkfield Park recognises that experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation may have an adverse impact on those children which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support. Monkfield Park may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Children who have experienced abuse, neglect or exploitation may display this through their own behaviour, which may be challenging and defiant or passive and withdrawn. We recognise that children may develop abusive behaviours and that these children may need to be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the setting, school or college and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. **Risks outside the home** take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (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.

Monkfield Park will provide training for staff to ensure that they have the skills to identify and report cases, or suspected cases, of abuse in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.

3.8.10 Children at Risk of Radicalisation

Children are susceptible to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a setting, school or college's safeguarding approach.

The governing body will ensure that a DSL has undertaken Prevent Lead training (which is updated every two years) and that all staff receive training about the Prevent Duty.

Staff are required to be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate they need help or protection. Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation are referred to the DSL in the usual way. The setting's/school's/college's Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Prevent referral using the Prevent National Referral Form found on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Board website.

[National Prevent referral form \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

See also Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales,' HM Government, (March 2024).

3.8.12 Privately Fostered Children

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16, (under 18 if disabled) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or relative, in their own home for 28 days or more.

Monkfield Park will follow the mandatory duty to inform the local authority of any 'Private Fostering' arrangements and refer **in the usual way via the Customer Service Centre.**
email: ReferralCentre.Children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

3.8.13 Children who have Family Members in Prison

Monkfield Park is committed to supporting children and young people who have a parent or close relative in prison and will work with the family to find the best ways of supporting the child.

Monkfield Park recognises that children with family members in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including: poverty, stigma, isolation, poor mental health and poor attendance.

Monkfield Park will treat information shared by the family in confidence and it will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

Monkfield Park will work with the family, specialist organisations and the child to minimise the risk of the child not achieving their full potential.

4.0 PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN

4.1 Monkfield Park will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part Three of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2025. This section should be read in conjunction with Monkfield Park's Safer Recruitment Policy.

4.2 The governing body will ensure that at least one of the **people on the recruitment panel** has completed safer recruitment training.

The following members of staff have undertaken Safer Recruitment training:

Annie Howell (Headteacher)

Kate Major (Deputy Headteacher)

4.3 Allegations that may meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section One)

- 4.3.1 Any allegation of abuse made against teachers, (including supply staff, other staff, volunteers and contractors) that meets the harms threshold as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025, Part Four, Section One, will be reported straight away to the Headteacher.
- 4.3.2 In cases where the Headteacher is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. Monkfield Park will follow the procedures set out in Part Four of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2025.
- 4.3.3 Monkfield Park will consult with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the event of an allegation being made against a teacher, member of supply staff or other staff, volunteer or contractor and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2025, Part Four and seek advice from their HR provider.
- 4.3.4 The Headteacher will ensure that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. The LADO will advise on all further action to be taken.
- 4.3.5 Before contacting the LADO, settings, schools and colleges should conduct basic enquiries in line with local procedures to establish the facts to help them determine whether there is any foundation to the allegation, being careful not to jeopardise any future possible police investigation.
- 4.3.6 Where the setting, school or college identify a child has been harmed, that there may be an immediate risk of harm to a child or if the situation is an emergency, they should contact children's social care and as appropriate the police immediately.
- 4.3.7 Monkfield Park will consider:
- **Looking after the welfare of the child** - the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) is responsible for ensuring that the child is not at risk and referring cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care.
 - **Investigating and supporting the person subject to the allegation** - the case manager should discuss with the LADO, the nature, content and context of the allegation, and agree a course of action.
- 4.3.8 Monkfield Park will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff, supply staff or volunteers relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff, supply staff or volunteer is no longer employed at the setting and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.
- 4.3.9 Staff (including supply staff and volunteers) who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension should not be an automatic response when an allegation is reported. However, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.

4.4 Concerns that do not meet the harms threshold (Part Four, Section Two)

- 4.4.1 Low level concerns that do not meet the harms threshold should be reported to the Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead. NB: The term low level does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the harms test.
- 4.4.2 In cases where the Headteacher or Principal is the subject of a **low level concern**, it will be reported to *the Chair of Governors*. Monkfield Park will follow the procedures set out in Part Four, Section Two of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', 2025.
- 4.4.3 Monkfield Park will deal with any such concern, no matter how small, where an adult working in or on behalf of the setting, school or college may have acted in a way that:
- is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
 - does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.
- 4.4.4 All low-level concerns should be recorded in writing. The record should include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, and action taken. The name of the individual sharing their concerns should also be noted, if the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible.
- 4.4.5 Settings, schools and colleges can decide where these records are kept, but they must be kept confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).
- At Monkfield Park such records will be kept as paper records. These are kept confidential and are held securely in a locked location.
- 4.4.6 Monkfield Park will promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the setting (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. This will enable Monkfield Park to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of the setting are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of Monkfield Park.
- 4.4.7 Settings/schools/colleges should ensure that **all** staff, including supply staff, volunteers and contractors, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with children and parents/carers as advised within the Local Authority's Code of Conduct: 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (February 2022). As part of the Induction process, all staff, including supply staff, volunteers and contractors, will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (both online and offline) with all children, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable. Staff are encouraged to self-refer, where, for example, they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, and/or on reflection they believe they have behaved in such a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.
- 4.4.8 All staff have signed to confirm that they have read the 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (February 2022).

4.4.9 Monkfield Park will ensure that staff, supply staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with children aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Position of Trust).

5.0 OTHER RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

5.1 Use of Mobile Phones and other Smart Devices Policy

5.1.1 This is a requirement for all Nursery or Primary schools with EYFS.

5.1.2 Our policy on use of mobile phones and other smart devices, cameras and sharing of images is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually. It is recognised that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the setting has developed a policy to outline the required protocol for all staff, students, volunteers and parents/carers. This is in line with The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Section 3.

6.0 GOVERNING BODY SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Governing bodies should ensure they facilitate a whole setting/school/college approach to safeguarding. This means ensuring safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.

6.2 The governing body fully recognises its responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It aims to ensure that the policies, procedures and training at Monkfield Park are effective and comply with the law and government guidance at all times.

It will:

- Nominate a governor for safeguarding who will take leadership responsibility for the setting's safeguarding arrangements and practice and champion safeguarding issues.
- Ensure that all governors and trustees receive appropriate governor safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training will equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in settings, schools and colleges are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole setting approach to safeguarding. This training will be regularly updated.
- Ensure governors and trustees are aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty and the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure an annual safeguarding report (Annual Safeguarding Monitoring Report for Governors) is made to the full governing body and copied to the Education Safeguarding Team. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay.
- Ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is annually reviewed, ratified, updated and understood and followed by all staff.
- Ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is published on the Monkfield Park website.

- Ensure that children’s exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age-appropriate filtering and monitoring systems and ensure the effectiveness is regularly reviewed.
- Ensure children’s wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns.

6.3 Use of setting/school/college premises for non-school/college activities

- 6.3.1 If the governing body provides extended school/college facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the setting’s arrangements for safeguarding as written in this policy shall apply.
- 6.3.2 Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation or individual, either on or off the Monkfield Park site, the governing body will seek assurance that they have appropriate policies and procedures in place to keep children safe and there are arrangements to liaise with the setting on these matters where appropriate.
- 6.3.3 The governing body will use the guidance on ‘Keeping children safe in out-of-school settings’ (May 2025) which details the safeguarding arrangements that settings, schools and colleges should expect these providers to have in place.
- 6.3.4 The governing body or proprietor will also ensure safeguarding requirements are included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement.

This policy was ratified at the meeting of the Full Governing Body on 11th September 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2026 or sooner if necessary.

Signed by:

Annie Howell, Headteacher and DSL 

Jane Crowden, Co-Chair of Governors

Chris Kidson, Co-Chair of Governors 

This policy links to our:

Anti-bullying policy
Attendance policy (including Children who are absent from Education)
Behaviour policy
Complaints policy
Critical Incident plan
Equality policy
First Aid policy
Health and Safety policy
Intimate Care policy
Lone Working policy
Online Safety and Acceptable Use policy
Physical Intervention and/or Use of Reasonable Force policy
Protocol for children not collected from school at the end of the school day/activity
Safer Recruitment policy
Staff Code of Conduct/Safer Working Practice
Staff Discipline and Grievance procedures
Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy
Use of Mobile Phone and Other Smart Devices Policy
Whistleblowing policy

Categories of abuse, neglect and exploitation

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. 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. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Physical Abuse - 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.

Neglect - 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.

It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

It also includes parents or carers 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
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- Provide suitable education

Emotional Abuse - Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are:

- Worthless
- Unloved
- Inadequate
- Valued only insofar as they meet another persons needs

It may include:

- not giving the child opportunities to express their views
- deliberately silencing them
- 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate

It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:

- interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning
- preventing participation in normal social interaction.

It may involve:

- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- The exploitation or corruption of children

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment although it may occur alone

Sexual Abuse – involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

This may involve:

- physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- non-contact activities involving:
 - children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images,
 - children in watching sexual activities
 - or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
 - grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Child Criminal Exploitation - Both Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (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.

Risks Outside the Home - is an approach that considers children and young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. The approach considers children and young people's experiences being not only influenced by their family, but also by their peer network, wider community and society in general. These threats can take a variety of different forms, including: Exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups; Children who go missing and trafficking; Online abuse; Sexual exploitation; Influences of extremism leading to radicalisation

Useful Contacts - Cambridgeshire

Education Safeguarding Team	ecps.general@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	
Education Safeguarding Manager – Sara Rogers	sara.rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	
Early Help Hub (EHH) - Targeted Support Service		Tel: 01480 376666
Customer Service Centre – Social Care referrals		Tel: 0345 045 5203
Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)		Tel: 01733 234724
Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit		Tel: 101
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	lado@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	
		Tel: 01223 727967
Senior Leadership Adviser – Phil Nash		Tel: 07920 270820
Prevent Officers	prevent@cambs.police.uk	
		Tel: 01480 422277

Relevant Documents

“Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” (September 2025)

“Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: non-statutory guidance for providers running out-of-school settings” (May 2025)

“Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings” (February 2022)

“Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” (May 2024)

“Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges, Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges” (March 2025)

“The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Jun 2023)

“Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales” (March 2024)

“Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people” (UKCIS, March 2024)

“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March 2015)

“When to Call the Police: guidance for schools and colleges,” (National Police Chief Council)

“Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (December 2023)