Vale of Glamorgan Council

Directorate of Learning and Skills

St. David's C/W Primary School Safeguarding Policy

September 2025

The policy exists within the legislative and governance frameworks for safeguarding in Wales, including:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002
- Common law duty of care
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act 2004
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures
- The Children's Rights Framework
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Regional Safeguarding Board
- Child Practice Reviews: multi-agency professional forums (bland)
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- European Convention on Human Rights

NB. A safeguarding policy must reflect new and emerging legislation and guidance

KEY CONTACTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

DESIGNATED SENIOR PERSON FOR CHILD PROTECTION (DSP)
NAME: BECCIE MORTEO
CONTACT NUMBER: 01656 656447

DEPUTY DSP
NAME: LEAH CROKE-WEST – CHANGE IN JANUARY 2024
CONTACT NUMBER: 01656 656447

NOMINATED GOVERNOR FOR CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING (DSG)
NAME: WYNDHAM HOWELLS – CHANGED IN DECEMBER 2023
CONTACT NUMBER: 01656 656447

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
NAME: WENDY GORDON
CONTACT NUMBER: 01656 656447

KEY CONTACTS WITHIN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

REFERRAL TO Vale of Glamorgan CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICE (CYPS)
Where schools have **URGENT** and **IMMEDIATE** concerns for the safety and welfare of a child or young person during office hours telephone: **01446725202**
To make **URGENT** referrals **OUT OF OFFICE HOURS** telephone **029 20788 570**

POLICE (CHILD PROTECTION): 101 in an emergency 999

The Learning & Skills Safeguarding Team is able to provide advice and support.
CONTACT EMAIL: jdredrup@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk , Telephone 01446 709867

Natasha James – Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
CONTACT NUMBER 01446700111

Helen Anderson – Designated Officer for Safeguarding (DOS)
CONTACT NUMBER 01446700111

David Davies – Safeguarding Lead for Learning & Skills
CONTACT NUMBER 01446700111

Enquiries/referrals in relation to Safeguarding concerns about practitioners or persons in position of trust should be sent to Jason Redrup & Helen Anderson

Document Version Control

Document	**Safeguarding Policy**
Reference	**September 2023**
Version	5
Previous Document	Safeguarding/Child protection policy for schools. September 2022.
Associated Documents	Legislative and governance frameworks for safeguarding in Wales as detailed in the guidance notes at the start of this policy.
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Author	Jason Redrupp
Reviewer	Beccie Morteo
Directorate Lead	
Consultation	
Approval	
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Version Number	Date Review Approved	Date Published	Summary of Amendments
2	10.5.22		Physical punishment law added
3	7.9.22		Changed name of DSP/DDSP
4	25.09.23	November 2023	Reviewed Content Added Hyperlinks
5		January 2024	Changed Name of DDSP and Named Governor

Safeguarding Policy for St. David's C/W Primary School

1. Introduction

St. David's C/W Primary School fully recognises the contribution it makes to safeguarding and child protection and that children have a right to be safeguarded and protected from harm.

Our policy is informed by a children's rights approach to safeguarding as a principled and practical framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

There are three main elements to our policy:

- Prevention through the culture, teaching and pastoral support offered to learners;
- Procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse – because of our day to day contact with children our staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse;
- Support to learners who may have been abused

Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the school and governors. Learning support assistants, mid-day supervisors, caretakers, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child.

Our policy should be read in conjunction with Welsh Government guidance document no: 265/2020 *Keeping Learners Safe*.

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/keeping-learners-safe-the-role-of-local-authorities-governing-bodies-and-proprietors-of-independent-schools-under-the-education-act.pdf

2. Prevention

We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps to safeguard learners.

Our school will therefore:

- establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- ensure children know that there are adults in the education setting whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
- include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for Relationships and Sexuality Education which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help;
- include in the curriculum, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills.
- Build relationships with other agencies and ensure early and appropriate referrals for support and intervention are made before risks escalate.
- Take a whole school (setting) approach to wellbeing which will incorporate safeguarding and preventative measures to support children and families.

3. Procedures

We will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures that have been endorsed by 58 Safeguarding Children Boards. Our school will:

- ensure it has a Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP – Beccie Morteo) for safeguarding who has undertaken the appropriate training.
- recognise the role of the DSP and arrange support and training. Our DSP attends annual L2 safeguarding training which meets LSCB requirements.
- ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:
    - the name of the DSP and their role and the designated governor (Wyndham Howells) for safeguarding.

    - that they have an individual responsibility for reporting children at risk and protection concerns to socials services, or to the police, within the timescales agreed with the Regional Safeguarding Board; and
    - how to take forward those concerns where the DSP is unavailable. We have a Deputy DSP (Leah Croke West and Andrew Morgan Cudd) who attends annual L2 safeguarding training which meets LSCB requirements.
- ensure that all members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and neglect and know how to respond to a learner who may disclose abuse or neglect.
- When a member of staff, teaching or non – teaching, is alerted to signs of abuse or neglect s/he should:

Discuss the issue with the school's DSP or in their absence the Deputy DSP. If the decision is taken that the incident needs to be referred**, the DSP in the case of an emergency where there are immediate child protection concerns must without delay make a telephone referral to CYPS** by telephoning the Duty Officer on 01446 725202, or out of hours on 02920 788570, in the unlikely event that they are unable to contact CYPS then the referrer needs to dial 999 and report the matter to police as an emergency. This must be followed within two working days by completing the Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) via e-mail to: dutymarfs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk . Cases which do not require immediate child protection can be referred through submission of a MARF. If the "Child in Need" referral box is ticked, the MARF must be accompanied with parental consent. No parental consent is needed for the "CP" referral box.

- Advice may be sought prior to referral by discussing concern with CYPS duty desk, or the Safeguarding Officer for Learning & Skills –01446 709867.
- ensure that members of staff who are Education Workforce Council of Wales registrants are aware of the Code of Professional Conduct and Practice for Registrants with the Education Workforce Council and the expectation within the Code that registrant has regard to the safety and well-being of learners in their care and related content;
- ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school/college/setting and staff for safeguarding and child protection by setting out its obligations in the school brochure;
- provide training for all staff so that they:
    - understand their personal responsibility;
    - know the agreed local procedures and their duty to respond;
    - are aware of the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse and neglect;
    - know how to support a child who discloses abuse or neglect; and
    - understand the role online behaviours may have in each of the above
- notify the local authority's social services team if:
    - a learner on the child protection register is excluded, either for a fixed term or permanently; or
    - there is an unexplained absence of a learner on the child protection register of more than two days duration from school (or one day following a weekend).
- work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at initial review and child protection conferences and core groups and the submission of written reports to the conferences;
- keep written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken – MyConcern), even where there is no need to refer the matter to the local authority immediately. All records should be added to MyConcern.

- ensure that all safeguarding records are managed securely on an approved safeguarding software platform(electronic);
- adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Government's Disciplinary and Dismissal Procedures for School Staff;
- ensure that recruitment and selection procedures are made in accordance with Welsh Government's Keeping Learners Safe guidance; and
- designate a governor for safeguarding who will oversee the school's child protection policy and practice.

Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Children Act 1989 and 2004 and Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines abuse as follows;

> *'A child is abused or neglected when somebody inflicts harm, or fails to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection via an inter-agency child protection plan'*

- **Physical Abuse**

  Hitting, slapping, over or misuse of medication, undue restraint, or inappropriate sanctions;

- **Emotional/Psychological Abuse**

  Threats of harm or abandonment, coercive control, humiliation, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks, witnessing abuse of others

- **Sexual Abuse**

  Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, including: physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts; non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways

- **Financial Abuse**

  This category will be less prevalent for a child but indicators could be:

  - not meeting their needs for care and support which are provided through direct payments; or
  - complaints that personal property is missing

- **Neglect**

  Failure to meet basic physical, emotional or psychological needs which is likely to result in impairment of health or development.

Risk from other actual or potential harm to a child or young person may also result from:

- Criminal exploitation such as county lines (CCE)
- Child sexual exploitation
- Radicalisation
- Female genital mutilation

- Modern slavery
- Honour Based Abuse

For further information on these types of harm visit the Safeguarding Wales web site for further explanation in the glossary of terms

4. Schools Governing Body

St. David's Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that:

- the school has an effective child protection policy and safeguarding procedures in place that is in accordance with local authority model guidance and Keeping Learners Safe 2020
- the school's child protection policy and safeguarding procedures are:
    - available to parents and carers
    - provided in a format appropriate to the understanding of children, and in particular for children with additional needs
- the school operates safer recruitment procedures that take account of the need to safeguard children and young people, including arrangements to ensure that all appropriate checks are carried out for new staff and volunteers who will work with children, including relevant DBS checks.
- the head teacher and all other permanent staff and volunteers who work with children undertake appropriate training to equip them with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively: and is kept up-to date by refresher training
- the governing body addresses any identified areas for improvement in regard to child protection arrangements that are brought to its attention
- the governing body to ensure that the designated senior person (DSP), designated governor for child protection and safeguarding (DSG) and the chair of governors undertake and maintain relevant safeguarding training as agreed by the Regional Safeguarding Board.

5. Supporting those at risk

We recognise that children/young people who are at risk, suffer abuse or experience violence may be deeply affected by this.

Our school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at school/college/setting their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

- Our school will endeavour to support the learner through:
    - the content of the curriculum to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
    - our school ethos which:
    - promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment; and
    - gives learners a sense of being valued (see section 2 on Prevention)
- Our school Relationship Policy, which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach which focuses on needs of the child. The school will endeavour to ensure that the learner knows that some behaviour is unacceptable, but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
- liaison with other agencies who support the learner, underlying the following:
    - Educational Psychology Service, Engagement Services or the Education Welfare Service
    - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and advocacy services;

- keeping records and notifying the local authority as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern.
- when a learner on the child protection register leaves, we will transfer information to the new provider immediately and inform Social Services.
- having a suitable secure email address in order for notifications to be received as part of Operation Encompass, and to support the child subject of that notification

6. Anti-Bullying

We have an anti-bullying policy which is set out in *(the anti-bullying procedures 2020)* reviewed annually by the governing body and consistent with Vale of Glamorgan Directorate of Learning and Skills *Policy and updated Guidance on Anti-Bullying in Schools/Educational Settings* (2014) and the Welsh Government Guidance document No: 050/2011, Rights, Respect, equality guidance 2019.

Anti-bullying overview
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/rights-respect-equality-statutory-guidance-for-governing-bodies-of-maintained-schools.pdf

7. **Physical intervention**

Our policy on physical intervention is set out in *(a separate document*) and is reviewed annually by the governing body and is consistent with the Welsh Government's guidance on Safe and effective intervention – use of reasonable force and searching for weapons.
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/safe-and-effective-intervention-use-of-reasonable-force-and-searching-for-weapons.pdf

8. Physical Punishment

The Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020 removes the defence of reasonable punishment. All physical punishment of children is illegal in Wales, including by parents, carers and anyone acting in loco parentis in any setting in Wales. We refer to the All Wales Practice Guides and Wales Safeguarding Procedures when dealing with incidents of physical punishment.

https://safeguarding.wales/chi/c6/c6.p11.html

9. **Children with Additional Learning Needs**

We recognise that statistically children with learning difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and or social emotional and mental health difficulties need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

10. Prevent Duty

Our policy to protect pupils from radicalisation and extremism complies with the *Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales* (2015)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales and Welsh Government guidance document No: 045/2011 *Respect and resilience*
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/respect-and-resilience-developing-community-cohesion.pdf
and informed by the *Respect and resilience Self-assessment tool 2016*
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/self-assessment-tool-respect-and-resilience.pdf

All staff have PREVENT training linked to annual Safeguarding training.

11. **Online Learning**

As a school we will take the guidance and advice laid out in the *Revised Keeping Safe Online: Live streaming and video conferencing safeguarding principles and practice* *https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/live-streaming-and-video-conferencing-safeguarding-principles-and-practice*, to ensure that our whole school community is kept safe whilst learning online**.**

12. The use of images

Photographic and video images of children may be recorded for a variety of purposes. Staff will be required to take pictures of pupils for curriculum purposes, extra school activities, publicity and celebrating achievement.

Particular care should be taken regarding the use of images which may include children who are looked after or children of other vulnerable groups, for example asylum seekers.

Every parent/carer must give specific written consent for any image of their child to be recorded and reminded this should not be shared.

Staff should never use their own personal equipment to capture images.

It is recommended that when using a photograph the following guidance should be followed

- If the photograph is used, avoid naming the child
- If the child is named avoid using the photograph
- Establish and record whether the image will be retained for further use
- Images are stored securely and used only by those authorised to do so: they should be available for scrutiny to ensure acceptability.

13. Recruitment and Selection

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all employees, agency workers, contractors and volunteers to share this commitment.

Safer Recruitment is the first step to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our school by the implementation of a policy and procedures that help deter, reject, prevent or detect people who might abuse children or are otherwise unsuited to working in a school environment.

Our policy on safer recruitment complies with the with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's *Safer Recruitment Policy* (Revised 2021)
https://staffnet.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Schools/Schools-HR-Policies/Safer-Recruitment-Policy.pdf
and *Safer Recruitment Guidelines* and Welsh Government guidance document no: 283/2020 *Keeping Learners Safe*.
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-04/220401-keeping-learners-safe.pdf

14. Safeguarding Responsibilities in Other Specific Circumstances

Our school is aware of the duty and responsibility to safeguard pupils in specific circumstances and has adopted statutory and good practice guidance, consistent with Welsh Government guidance document no: 265/2020 *Keeping Learners Safe*

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/keeping-learners-safe-the-role-of-local-authorities-governing-bodies-and-proprietors-of-independent-schools-under-the-education-act.pdf.

15. Self-Evaluation and Audit

Our school maintains an up-to-date safeguarding self-evaluation report which is reviewed annually by the governing body and consistent with the Estyn *Self-evaluation form for Safeguarding and Child Protection* *https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-07/SER%2520For%2520Schools%2520RE%2520SFG%2520%25202017.docx* or the Welsh Government safeguarding self-evaluation *Audit Tool and Guidance* https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/annex-3-safeguarding-audit-tool.docx that accompanies *Keeping learners safe (Annex 3)* as tools for continuous improvement in safeguarding practice.

16. Allegations Against Employees and Volunteers

Any allegation of abuse made by or on behalf of a child will be taken seriously and the child will be listened to and dealt with sensitively.

Our school also has a duty of care to our employees and volunteers and will support individuals subject to an allegation to manage and minimise the stress inherent in the allegations process.

Our school has procedures set out that adhere to the procedures set out in Welsh Government circular no: 009/2014 Safeguarding children in education: handling allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff.
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-11/safeguarding-children-in-education-handling-allegations-of-abuse-against-teachers-and-other-staff.pdf

When an allegation has been made against a member of staff the Head Teacher must be informed immediately, the Head Teacher will then manage the allegation iby informing the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) with support from the Learning & Skills Safeguarding Officer.

When an allegation has been made against the Head Teacher, the Chair of Governors must be informed immediately. The Chair of Governors will then manage the allegation by informing the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) with support from the Learning & Skills Safeguarding Officer.

and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures: Section 5, allegations/concerns about practitioners and those in positions of trust Social care Wales (safeguarding.wales).

17. Safeguarding Training

Our school is committed to ensuring that all staff (permanent and non-permanent) and volunteers undertake the appropriate training to equip them with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding children effectively, which is kept up-to-date by annual refresher training, this is known as Level 1 training.
Training will take place via iDev.

Our school ensures that the Designated Senior Person (DSP), Deputy Designated Senior Person (DDSP) for safeguarding, the Designated Safeguarding Governor and the Chair of Governors undertake training in inter-agency working that is provided by, or to standards agreed by the Regional Safeguarding Board and refresher training to keep their knowledge and skills up to date, in addition to basic safeguarding training.

Governors my access appropriate training on their safeguarding responsibilities and in handling allegations of abuse against school staff. Our Safeguarding Governor is fully trained.
Records are kept by the local authority through the Idev system. These are confirmed at school level. .
It is a requirement that the DSP, DDSP and relevant Governors undertake an annual refresher training, known as level 2. As well as full multi agency training as per the requirements of *Keeping Learners safe*, every 3 years, in relation to their safeguarding duties.

18. My Concern

My Concern safeguarding software is used by the school and Local Authority. It is a simple and safe system for recording and managing all safeguarding, pastoral and wellbeing concerns.

Staff record and manage any safeguarding concerns as they occur. Integrated with SIMS, My Concern pulls through the relevant student information across from SIMS to create the student profile in My Concern. Automatic notifications are sent to the designated safeguarding lead when any new concerns are added by users.

My Concern allows schools to facilitate joint working and information sharing with trusted partners and colleagues such as the school's youth mentors or a child's social worker, by adding them as team members to a specific concern or student profile in My Concern. This promotes a complete picture of an individual's well-being and enables the relevant team members to act when required without having to send additional updates by email.

Documents, minutes, MARFs and other referral forms and other types of media can be uploaded and linked to the pupil's record. This minimises the need for paper records and centralises all relevant and supporting information. It enables our school to manage and prioritise actions and evidence the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements to Estyn, Governors and Senior Leaders and drive improved outcomes for students.

Reports can be created on any combination of categories of concern or student information over a fixed or dynamic time period. Typical reports schools can run include a breakdown of 'total concerns by month', 'concerns by category', 'termly governor report' etc.

Schools have an equal responsibility to ensure that relevant documentation and information is shared in a secure and timely manner with all relevant safeguarding partners.

Table of Appendices

Appendix A	Advice and Guidance

Appendix A

Advice / Guidance

The below sections are aimed to provide additional advice & guidance on specific safeguarding topics. The decision to include them as a heading within your school safeguarding policy, as a stand-alone policy or as additional advice & guidance documents for staff will be particular to each school.

Ending Physical Punishment

21st March 2022 was a historic moment for children and their rights in Wales. From this day on, physically punishing children will be illegal in Wales. This change is being brought about by the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020 (the Act). From 21 March 2022, no one in Wales will be able to use the defence of reasonable punishment as a defence to common assault. All physical punishment will be illegal in Wales. Below are some additional links to further explain the changes.

Ending Physical Punishment in Wales: factsheet for the education workforce | GOV.WALES

https://wales.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-wales/images/assetbox/ce40e904-b1b3-4ca8-b0f6-98f9e78cd2ad/assetbox.html

Cysur | 7 Minute Briefings

Physical Intervention

Additional useful documents



Physical Intervention.zip

Suicide & Self-harm

The tragedy and devastation that is associated with suicide and self-harm is very real in our schools and how we positively approach supporting the entire school community is essential in helping to reduce the number of incidents, helping to make people feel listened to and supported along with ensuring we all talk about the subject, thereby helping to reduce the stigmas attached.

The Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding Board has an agreed strategy and action plan 2021-24, this approach should be considered and followed by school.



Suicide and Self-harm.zip

Social Networking and On-line safety policy

The use of mobile devices, tablets and computers is ever increasing and children are accessing devices for social and educational purposes from a very early age. It is essential that remaining safe on line is a priority for schools and parents/carers and whilst school can help monitor and guide usage during the school day, parents need to remain vigilant and engaged in their child's on-line activity outside of these times. The ages outlined in age restricted content has been designated through consultation with Social Media / App creators and Broadcasters along with Government watchdogs and regulators, as such our school supports the age restrictions recommended and expect parents to support these age restrictions too.

https://staffnet.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Schools/Schools-HR-Policies/Internet-Social-Networking-Schools-Policy.pdf

More Resources are available at, Hwb (gov.wales) for Hwb users, his includes:

- Keeping Safe on Line
- Sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-responding-to-incidents-and-safeguarding-children-and-young-people

Mental Health

- It is clear that the incidences of anxiety and mental health unwellness is on the increase in our schools, this could be for a number of factors, including that learners feel more confident in reporting and reaching out for help. As professionals it is essential that we are able to confidently respond to such reports and effectively support learners. The below Hwb resources contains a number of videos and links to support you in this. the resource is aimed at secondary age learners but can be used effectively for younger learners.
- Repository - Hwb (gov.wales) - English
- Repository - Hwb (gov.wales) – Welsh

Looked After Children

The school's policy on Children Looked After (CLA) should be set out in a separate document in consultation with Education Directorate's Looked After Co-ordinator.



Looked After Children.zip

Children can become looked after by agreement with parents or by order of a court. Most children in care are safe from harm and do well, however for some there are particular risks. For children who are in the care of the local authority, all LA officers have parental responsibility (PR) . For children on a full care order, it is the child's social worker who has full PR. For children on an interim care order or placed with parent order, the local authority shares parental responsibility (PR). Where schools have safeguarding concern's or where children looked after are absent without authorisation, schools should contact the child's social worker and enable a swift and effective response to this.

Know the vulnerabilities

Children who are looked after are:

- at greater risk of being bullied or abused by peers;
- more likely to be the target of sexual exploitation;
- significantly more likely to run away from home;
- at greater risk of misusing substances due to early life experiences;
- more likely to suffer social, emotional and mental health difficulties due to trauma;
- at a higher risk of having some form of developmental delay;
- potentially going to have issues with their identity;
- more likely to have additional learning needs

What you can do

Schools play a key role in protecting children in care. Every school should have a designated lead for looked after children. However, it is everyone's responsibility to make sure that children who are looked after are safeguarded.

- Know who the child's social worker is
- Be aware of signs of abuse and neglect.
- Be aware of vulnerabilities of children in care.
- Focus on the individual needs of the child.
- Know what the specific plans are for any looked after child that you are responsible for.
- Ensure that a good quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) that reflects the voice of the child and has a multi-agency approach that seeks to meet social, emotional, and academic needs is in place.
- Listen to the child's voice and act upon it.
- Work collaboratively with other agencies.
- Report any concerns to the designed safeguarding lead and follow your safeguarding procedures.
- Ensure strong communication with designated teachers to identify looked-after children who are absent without authorisation and enable a swift and effective response to this.
- Ensure frequent contact between, carers, school and social workers and all professionals working with the looked after children are operating in a coherent way, placing a high priority on school attendance, wellbeing, and achievement.
- Ensure robust Information sharing with the child's social worker and looked after children's education coordinator (LACE) are informed swiftly if there are any concerns about attendance or behaviour

Take action and keep taking action until you know they're safe

Child Exploitation

School recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of pupils where there are concerns that they are at risk of abuse through any form of exploitation (Criminal, County Lines, and Sexual).

Child exploitation is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in activities (criminal, sexual etc.). It is a form of abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection. The vulnerability of the young person and grooming process employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of relationships and unable to give informed consent.

Exploitation includes:

- abuse through exchange of sexual activity for some form of payment or gift
- abuse through the production of indecent images and/or any other indecent material involving children whether photographs, films or other technologies
- abuse through grooming whether via direct contact or the use of technologies such as mobile phones and the internet
- abuse through trafficking for sexual or criminal purposes
- abuse through taking ownership of individuals property (cuckooing).

Children do not volunteer to be sexually exploited and they cannot consent to their own abuse; they are forced and/or coerced.

Child Sexual Exploitation might be when someone gives you things like love, affection, food, money or gifts, but then makes you do sexual things to pay them back. They might make you feel special, or make you think that you're in a relationship, but that's not true. Sometimes they can be violent or say nasty things.'

(Child Sexual Exploitation Steering Group, 2019)

If the school is concerned that a pupil is at risk of CSE a Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF) will be completed and advice sought from Vale Duty Team.

Further information can be sought from the All Wales Protocol Safeguarding Children and young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation 2013.