



SHIREBROOK ACADEMY SAFEGUARDING POLICY (Incorporating child Protection procedures - (including safer recruitment, allegations against staff and low-level concerns))

DOCUMENT CONTROL			
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Section 1: Introduction

This child protection/safeguarding policy outlines how Shirebrook Academy will safeguard and promote children's welfare to keep our learners safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The policy applies to all adults, including volunteers, governors/trustees, supply staff and contractors working in or on behalf of the setting.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

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

Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

Our aim is to provide help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge through collaborative working with our Pastoral teams, Early Help workers and Safeguarding teams within the academy and referring to Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Safeguarding teams as needed.

We help to keep children safe by:

- Providing safe environments, with secure access, where children can learn and develop
- Acting in the best interests of children to protect them online and offline, including when they are receiving remote education
- At the earliest opportunity, identifying children who may need Early Help, and who are at risk of harm or have been harmed. This can include, but is not limited to, neglect, abuse (including by other children), grooming or exploitation
- Taking timely and appropriate safeguarding action for children who need extra help or who may be suffering, or likely to suffer, harm. This includes, if required, referring in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help
- Using safe recruitment processes and managing allegations that may meet the harm threshold and allegations/concerns that do not meet the harm threshold, referred to as low-level concerns

We will ensure that parents/carers and our partner agencies are aware of our child protection/safeguarding policy by ensuring that it is on the academy website. There will also be a copy kept on Reception and parents/carers of new learners will be signposted to the academy website so they are able to view the policy at any time.

The academy website will also have information about how parents/children/other agencies can contact the designated safeguarding lead and their deputy/ies and include their availability during out of school hours and school holidays.

Safeguarding and child protection policy statement

Shirebrook Academy operates a whole academy approach and ethos to safeguarding and protecting children. Where safeguarding is concerned, we maintain an attitude of "*it could happen here*". We recognise that everyone in the academy has a role to play to keep children

safe; this includes ensuring children feel heard and understood, identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action. Safeguarding and child protection is incorporated in all relevant aspects of processes and policy development. All systems, processes and policies operate with the best interests of a child at their centre.

We ensure that all children are safeguarded while on or off academy premises and are proactive about anticipating and managing risks that children face in the wider community and online. To support this the academy assesses the risks and issues in the wider community when considering the well-being and safety of its learners. Due to the context of our academy, our children may be at greater risk of neglect, being victims of Domestic Abuse, County Lines, experiencing mental health issues and issues linked to parenting capacity due to mental health, drug use and/or involvement and difficulties understanding safety boundaries and behaviour.

To protect our learners, we have a Prevent action plan/risk assessment and are part of the Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) initiative (Derby and Derbyshire's local version of Operation Encompass). We act on Police notifications linked to Domestic Abuse incidents and ensure that Pastoral and Safeguarding Teams complete safe and well checks on these children in school or if they are absent, by phone calls and home visits as appropriate.

Staff report racist language on Neon forms, these are acted on by DSLs with educational conversations with the child support and sanctions as appropriate and parents/carers are informed via phone calls/meetings. We report to Prevent as is our statutory duty.

As part of Assembly and Tutor-led Personal Development programme, children are taught about British Values, valuing and respecting others, Equality and Diversity, safeguarding systems, On-line safety and Protected Characteristics.

The academy recognises we have an important role to play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and contributes to multi-agency working as set out in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) *Note: this is currently under consultation*). As a relevant agency, the academy understands its role within local safeguarding arrangements and operates in accordance with the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children multi-agency procedures](#), including the local criteria for action (known as the [Threshold document](#)) and local protocols for assessment in [Derby and Derbyshire](#) *(note: this is currently under review)*.

To support key multi-agency safeguarding communications we have a dedicated secure safeguarding email address ShirebrookSafeguarding@shirebrookacademy.org which is accessible by all members of our safeguarding staff. During the academy term and in academy hours, this is checked daily. An 'out of office' message is operational during other times and in academy holidays to advise partner agencies if and how often messages will be checked/responded to and when the academy will reopen.

The academy is also aware of and implements any local learning where appropriate, such as those as outlined in DDSCP Briefing note: [safeguarding school age children and learning from case reviews](#) and other DDSCP briefing notes located in the multi-agency safeguarding children procedures [document library](#).

Safeguarding and Pastoral Teams work with NE Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Early Help team and Social Care teams and attend Vulnerable Children's Panels and safeguarding meetings to ensure we provide support for our vulnerable children. Additionally, as part of our Safeguarding offer, we offer school-led Early Help to support our children and their families. As part of our Safeguarding procedures, the DSL leads on a weekly Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children's

panel where the Pastoral and Safeguarding teams discuss vulnerable children and determine actions linked to safeguarding and additional support.

Pastoral and Safeguarding teams refer and work with external agencies such as the School Nurse, local GPs, CAMHS, the Police, PCSOs and Digital PCSOs to add additional safeguarding support and education in meetings and through delivering assemblies. The DSL/Safeguarding Officer attends the local mapping meeting where students causing concern across NE Derbyshire are discussed as are local safeguarding issues.

Context

This policy enables Shirebrook Academy to carry out our functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and must be read alongside key guidance:

- Department for Education's [statutory guidance](#) publications for schools and local authorities, including:
 - [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)
 - [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)
 - [Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children](#) (2018)
- [Human Rights Act](#) (1998) and [Equality Act](#) (2010), including the Public Sector Equality Duty
- [Data Protection Act](#) (2018) and [UK GDPR](#)
- [Prevent Duty Guidance](#)-Under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2023
- [Derby and Derbyshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Children procedures](#)
- Searching, Confiscation and use of Reasonable Force Policy

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm, neglect, or failure to act, it relates to broader aspects of care and education. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other academy policies, such as:

- Children's health and safety and well-being, including their mental health
- Behaviour policy, including how we engage learners struggling to engage in school, mental health and behaviour, acceptable and non-acceptable behaviours, how we prevent and respond to bullying including cyber bullying, prejudiced based and discriminatory bullying and child-on-child abuse.
- Searching, Confiscation and use of Reasonable Force Policy-which outlines the academy's screening, searching, and confiscating powers and how they will be used safely, proportionately, and appropriately, including police strip searches
- Reduced timetables, suspension, and permanent exclusion
- School attendance, including children who are absent from education particularly on repeat occasions and/or prolonged periods or go missing from education, home, or care
- Meeting the needs of learners with medical conditions
- Providing first aid
- Educational visits
- Intimate care and emotional well-being
- Online safety, including use of mobile and smart technology, online safety at school and at home and other associated issues, including sharing nudes and semi-nudes, use of mobile phones/devices in the academy, appropriate filtering and monitoring, and how children can be kept safe from terrorist and extremist materials
- Safer recruitment and selection, including single central record
- Staff behaviour (code of conduct), including low level concerns, managing allegations against staff, including supply staff, contractors and volunteers incorporating 'duty to refer' and whistleblowing, acceptable use of technologies/mobile devices, staff/learner relationships and communications, including the use of social media.
- Academy security and visitors

- Policy/agreement for visitors to the academy
- SEND annual information report
- Relationships education (RE)/relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (physical and mental well-being)
- Communications
- Complaints procedure
- Information sharing

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Section 2: What is Child Abuse, Neglect and exploitation?

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child which may be caused by an adult, adults or by another child or children inflicting harm or by failing to prevent harm. The abuse can be physical, sexual, neglect or emotional, including witnessing the ill treatment of others, such as domestic abuse, teenage relationship abuse or issues relating to gang activity and youth violence. Children can be at risk of abuse inside and outside of their home, in their community, inside and outside the academy and online.

Safeguarding issues can put children at of risk harm. Behaviours linked to drug taking and or alcohol misuse, deliberate absence from or going missing from education, serious violence and violent crime (including county lines), radicalisation, consensual/non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images can be signs that children are at risk. Abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely stand-alone events; in most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Most cases of students impacting negatively on each other will be dealt with under the academy's Behaviour and Rewards Policy but the Safeguarding Policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour is:

- concerns that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect
- Bullying, including online bullying and prejudice-based bullying, racist, disability and homophobic or transphobic abuse
- Serious and potentially a criminal offence
- Acts that could put students in the academy at risk
- Violent acts
- Students being forced to use drugs/alcohol
- Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls
- Sexual harassment, online sexual abuse, and sexual violence between children. Online abuse can include sending abusive, harassing, and misogynistic or misandrist messages; sharing nude and semi-nude images and videos; and coercing others to make and share sexual imagery
- Radicalisation and/or extremist behaviour
- Child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, including County Lines
- Risks linked to using technology and social media, including online bullying; the risks of being groomed online for exploitation or radicalisation; and risks of accessing and generating inappropriate content, for example youth produced sexual imagery
- Abuse within intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as 'teenage relationship' abuse)
- Upskirting¹
- Substance misuse – drugs and alcohol
- Gang activity and serious violence and violent crime, particularly affecting young males who have been excluded, have experienced trauma and have been involved in offending
- Domestic abuse
- Forced marriage, marriage/civil partnership under the age of 18, virginity testing or hymenoplasty, female genital mutilation and so-called 'honour-based' abuse

¹ Upskirting is taking a picture of someone's genitals or buttocks under their clothing without them knowing, either for sexual gratification or in order to humiliate or distress the individual. This is a criminal offence, see Voyeurism (Offences) Act (2019)

- Children with Perplexing Presentations (PP) in whom illness is fabricated or induced (FII)
- Homelessness
- Other issues not listed here but that pose a risk to children

Further information about indicators of abuse and neglect as well as safeguarding risks noted above are located in [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)

Section 3: Academy staff safeguarding roles and responsibilities

Staff induction

Staff and governors at Shirebrook Academy will have an induction appropriate to their roles, which will include organisation vision/ethos, aspirations, and expectations of all staff, as well as what is considered acceptable and what is not. New staff will also receive information about systems within the academy which support safeguarding, including teaching online safety and copies of policies; this includes:

- Child protection/ safeguarding policy, which includes how the academy deals with child-on-child abuse
- The academy behaviour policy, which includes measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
- Staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy, which includes acceptable use of technologies/mobile devices, online filtering and monitoring processes utilised and expectations associated with this, staff/learner relationship and communications, including the use of social media. The policy also incorporates low-level concerns, allegations against staff and whistleblowing
- Staff conduct and use of reasonable force-more detail can be found in the academy Searching, Confiscation and use of Reasonable Force Policy which can be found on the academy website
- The safeguarding response to children who are absent from education
- The safeguarding response to child-on-child abuse
- The role and names of the designated safeguarding lead, their deputy/ies, the designated teacher for looked after children, the senior mental health lead, and the designated governor

All staff will:

- Receive a paper/electronic copy of, read and sign to say that they have received, read, and understood:
 - Those who work directly with children at least Part one of [Keeping Children Safe in Education: for school and college staff 2024](#) and Annex B: Further information
 - Academy leaders, including governors/trustees/proprietors and designated safeguarding leads/deputies all of [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)
 - Staff who do not work with children directly at least [Keeping Children Safe in Education: for school and college staff \(part 1\)](#) (2024) or Annex A Safeguarding information for school and college staff (a condensed version of part 1)

All staff will:

- Be aware of:
 - The Stopping Domestic Abuse Together initiative (known nationally as Operation Encompass), a police-led early domestic abuse notification to schools

- The safeguarding response to children who are absent from education
- The safeguarding response to child-on-child abuse
- The Early Help process for low level and emerging needs and understand their role in it
- The process for making a referral to local authority children's social care, the statutory assessments that may follow this and the role they may play in such assessments
- Know what to do if a child tells them they are being abused, exploited, or neglected and will be able to reassure children they are being taken seriously, will be supported, and kept safe
- Know what to do if a child shares, produces, or receives a sexual communication, including sharing nudes/ semi-nudes
- Know what to do if a parent or carer shares any concerns about a child
- Be aware:
 - Children may not feel ready or know how to tell and/or might not recognise their experiences as harmful and that certain children may face additional barriers to telling
 - Any child may benefit from Early Help and be alert to the need for Early Help for some groups of children
 - Of the indicators of abuse, exploitation, and neglect, understand that children can be at risk inside and outside of the academy, in their home, institutional or community setting and online
 - Children can abuse other children, referred to as child-on-child abuse, and the academy policy to prevent and respond to it
 - Children with special education needs or disabilities (SEND), particularly those with neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism, as well as those with certain medical or physical health conditions are particularly vulnerable to online and offline abuse, exploitation, and neglect - and also face additional barriers to the recognition of this abuse
 - In addition to children with SEND, that some groups of children are potentially at greater risk of harm, including children who need a social worker, children absent or missing from education or who are electively home educated, children requiring mental health support, looked after/previously looked after children and children who are, or may be, lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBTQ+)
 - Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and well-being issues
 - 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
 - That children's poor behaviour may be a sign that they are suffering harm or that they have been traumatised by abuse
 - Of the '*one chance*' rule with suspected or actual victims of forced marriage and so called 'honour-based' abuse. That is, they may only have one opportunity to speak to a victim or potential victim to offer appropriate support and advice
 - Of the possible indicators, alongside other factors, and contexts, that a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology
 - Of the indicators which may signal children are at risk from, or involved with, serious violent crime
- Have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep looked after children and previously looked after children safe
- Discuss/report any concerns they have about a child with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy. If staff members are unsure, they should always speak to the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy

- Speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy about any concerns about so called 'honour-based' abuse, breast ironing, female genital mutilation (FGM)², virginity testing and hymenoplasty³
- Work with the designated safeguarding lead and do everything they can to support social workers to help them carry out a statutory assessment
- Be mindful that early information sharing is vital to identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect and in promoting children's welfare, including in relation to their educational outcomes

Governors/trustees/proprietors and the management of academy safeguarding

As outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2024) the governing body/trustees/proprietors have a strategic leadership responsibility for the academy safeguarding arrangements and has/have the responsibility to ensure that the academy complies with safeguarding duties under legislation. There is a senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for the establishment's safeguarding arrangements.

The governing body/trustees/proprietors and their senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding lead are aware of and follow local arrangements. This includes understanding and applying the [Threshold document](#) (criteria for action), local Protocol for Assessment in [Derby](#) and Derbyshire (*note: this is currently under review*), [Derby](#) or [Derbyshire](#) Child Protection Conference Professionals Dissent process and [Dispute Resolution and Escalation policy](#). Arrangements have been made to set out information sharing processes and principles within the academy and with local authority children's social care, safeguarding partners (Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership/DDSCP) and other agencies. The academy will supply information as requested by the DDSCP which enables and assists partners to perform their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area, including information related to local and national child safeguarding practice reviews.

Governors/trustees exercise strategic oversight of all aspects of safeguarding in the academy and this is a standing item at all governing body/trustee meetings and recorded in minutes. To support this an annual safeguarding audit is completed to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding policies and processes.) In addition, an annual review and risk assessment of the academy approach to online safety, policy and practice is undertaken. (*Safeguarding children audit tool for schools – Derbyshire County Council - <https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-education/safeguarding-children-audit-tool-for-schools/safeguarding-children-audit-tool-for-schools.aspx>*)

Principal

The Principal will ensure that the policies and procedures, adopted by their governing body/trustees and proprietors, are understood, and followed by all staff. This includes working with the designated safeguarding lead, their deputy, and other senior leaders, to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding within the academy and ensuring that educational outcomes of children who have or have had a social worker are promoted.

Designated Safeguarding lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding leads

² There is a specific [legal duty](#) on teachers to report acts of FGM on girls under 18 to the police

³ It is illegal to carry out, offer or aid and abet virginity testing or hymenoplasty in any part of the UK; see multi-agency [guidance](#) for more information

A member of the Senior leadership team is appointed to the role of Designated Safeguarding lead to take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place).

The Designated Safeguarding lead co-ordinates the setting's safeguarding and child protection arrangements by providing advice and support to other staff on child welfare, safeguarding and child protection matters, including Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) notifications, takes part in strategy discussions/meetings and inter-agency meetings – and/or supports other staff to do so - and contributes to the assessment of children.

The establishment also has several Deputy Designated Safeguarding leads to cover for when the designated safeguarding lead is not available; the lead responsibility however remains with the designated safeguarding lead.

The Designated Safeguarding lead actively liaises with other academy staff with safeguarding responsibilities, teachers, pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT leads, SENCos and senior mental health leads on matters of safety and safeguarding to ensure safeguarding and promoting children's well-being are effective.

The Designated Safeguarding lead or a deputy is always available during academy hours for the staff in the academy to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

Within Shirebrook Academy, there is a designated Safeguarding Team who deal with Safeguarding issues and this consists of two DSLs - Mrs Lindsey Burgin, Principal and Mrs Lindsay Ward Vice Principal: SEND and Safeguarding, a non-teaching Safeguarding Officer, Miss Emily Ibbotson and Early Help practitioners Mr Paul Davies and Miss Emma Hutton. Additionally, there are several DDSLs all of whom are members of the Leadership Team: Mr Damian O'Reilly Vice Principal, Mrs Elaine Wainwright Assistant Vice Principal and Mr James Edwards Assistant.

For safeguarding support out-of-school hours and during school holidays, Mrs Lindsey Burgin, Mrs Lindsay Ward and Miss Emily Ibbotson are contactable by phone and email and attend safeguarding meetings as required.

More information about the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead can be found in [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#) Annex C: Role of the designated safeguarding lead.

Safeguarding training and Induction

In addition to the safeguarding training at induction, all staff and governors/trustees will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities which is regularly updated⁴ as well as Prevent Duty, child-on-child abuse and online safety training (which includes effective responses to sharing nudes/semi-nudes and an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring), so they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to keep children safe.

The annual Safeguarding training delivered to all staff in September will include an understanding of the expectations and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring. Staff will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) to help provide them

⁴ See DDSCP multi-agency training pathway on the [training page](#) of www.ddscp.org.uk

with an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at the risk of harm ensuring they have the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

All staff will receive training on attendance, with dedicated attendance training for any staff with a specified attendance function in their role, including administrative, pastoral or family support staff, and senior leaders.

The governors'/trustees' safeguarding training and updates will enable them to have the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that safeguarding processes and procedures are effective and robust and a whole academy approach to safeguarding is in place.

Those involved with the recruitment and employment of staff to work with children will have received appropriate safer recruitment training.

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Section 4: Key safeguarding contacts

Academy staff with specific safeguarding responsibilities

Safeguarding Role	Name and Role	Academy contact details
Designated Safeguarding Leads	Mrs Lindsay Ward Vice Principal: SEND and Safeguarding Mrs Lindsey Burgin Principal	lward@shirebrookacademy.org (does not work on Thursday) lburgin@shirebrookacademy.org
Senior Leader(s) available for contact in the absence of the designated safeguarding lead	Mrs Lindsey Burgin Principal	lburgin@shirebrookacademy.org
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Damian O'Reilly Vice Principal: Quality of Education Mrs Elaine Wainwright Assistant Vice Principal Mr James Edwards Assistant Vice Principal	DOreilly@shirebrookacademy.org EWainwright@shirebrookacademy.org JEdwards@shirebrookacademy.org
Other staff with safeguarding responsibilities	Miss Emily Ibbotson Safeguarding Officer Mr Paul Davies Early Help Worker Miss Emma Hutton Student Liaison Worker (on maternity leave September 2024 onwards)	EIbbotson@shirebrookacademy.org PDavies@shirebrookacademy.org EHutton@shirebrookacademy.org
Attendance Lead/Education Welfare Officer	Mrs Charlotte Anderson	CAnderson@shirebrookacademy.org
SENCo	Miss Elizabeth Butterworth-Smith	EButterworth-Smith@shirebrookacademy.org
Designated Safeguarding Governor/ Trustee	Mrs Sally Wheatley	Contact the PA to the Principal – bhenson@shirebrookacademy.org
Designated Teacher for Looked After/ previously Looked After Children	Mrs Lindsay Ward	LWard@shirebrookacademy.org

Safeguarding Role	Name and Role	Academy contact details
Senior Lead/s for Mental Health and Well-being	Mrs Lindsey Burgin Mrs Julie Stott Mrs Lindsay Ward	LBurgin@shirebrookacademy.org JStott@shirebrookacademy.org LWard@shirebrookacademy.org
Governor/Trustee for Mental Health and Well-being	Mr Andy Brickles	Contact the PA to the Principal – bhenson@shirebrookacademy.org

Other Key Local Safeguarding Contacts *(add or amend list as appropriate)*

	Derby	Derbyshire
Early Help Advice	Early Help Advisors https://www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/safeguarding-children/early-help/	Brian.Mckeown@derbyshire.gov.uk Helen.Smyth@derbyshire.gov.uk NE Derbyshire Early Help Team managers Debbie.Hadley@derbyshire.gov.uk Early Help Development Officer NE Derbyshire/Bolsover and Amber Valley
Targeted Early Help requests	Locality Vulnerable Children Meeting (VCM) for requests for targeted early help via multi-agency team (MAT) or non-urgent social care referrals via Locality Based Single Point of Access (SPA) Clerks: Locality 1 & 5 Derwent, Chaddesden, Spondon, Oakwood, Mackworth, Allestree and Darley Email: vcm1and5@derby.gov.uk Locality 2 Sinfyn, Alvaston, Boulton, Chellaston, Osmaston and Allenton Email: vcm2@derby.gov.uk Locality 3 & 4 Balgreaves, Littleover, Mickleover, Normanton and Abbey Email: vcm3and4@derby.gov.uk The Light House (Integrated Disabled Children's Service) Tel: 01332 256990 Email: VCM-IDCS@derby.gov.uk	Requests for support from professionals, should be made via the online request for support unless a child is at risk of Significant Harm

	Derby	Derbyshire
Speak to a Social Worker for thresholds advice and consultation	Children's Services Professional Consultation Line 07812 300329	Starting Point Consultation and Advice Service for Professionals 01629 535353
Referrals to Local Authority Children's Social Care	Initial Response Team Urgent: 01332 641172 or out of hours via Careline 01332 956606 Non urgent: Derby Children's Social Care Online Referral system	Starting Point Urgent: 01629 533 190 Non urgent: Starting Point online Nottinghamshire Safeguarding referrals Non urgent: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/safeguarding/childrens-mash Urgent: 0300 500 80 90 Out of hours- after 5pm- 0300 456 4546
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Derby and Derbyshire LADO referral form Email: CPMduty@derby.gov.uk	Derby and Derbyshire LADO referral form Email: professional.allegations@derbyshire.gov.uk
Derbyshire Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergencies • Mandatory reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) via 101 • Academy Police Safer neighbourhood team or link officer PC 14717 Jake Stone, Shirebrook Safer Neighbourhood Team Shirebrook Police Station Derbyshire Constabulary Tel: 101 or 07849 079106 E-mail: Jake.Stone@Derbyshire.Police.UK 	
Prevent (radicalisation and extremism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Prevent (radicalisation/extremism) Team on 101 or directly via 0300 1228694 • Prevent/channel referral form • For advice contact: Derbyshire - 01629 538473 or prevent@derbyshire.gov.uk Derby - 07765 222032 or sally.siner@derby.gov.uk 	
Education Welfare and Local Authority Children Missing Education (CME) Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derby Education Welfare Service • CME: 01332 641448 or cme@derby.gov.uk • See Children Missing Education for further information and CME referral form and for notification forms for child on roll, removal from roll 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derbyshire Education Welfare Services • CME: CS.CMECoordinators@derbyshire.gov.uk • See Children missing from education (CME) policy and guidance and removal from school roll for further information

	Derby	Derbyshire
	and removal from roll to Elective Home Education (EHE)	
Virtual School for Looked After Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual School Head - 07812 301044 or graeme.ferguson@derby.gov.uk Specialist Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachel Moore, Head of the Virtual School for Children in Care 07798 882876 or rachel.moore@derbyshire.gov.uk Specialist Education Support Officer for LAC or other role Sandra Sharpe Secondary Education Support Officer 016295 31556 07814886782 Sandra.Sharpe@derbyshire.gov.uk <i>Nottinghamshire link:</i> Russell Diamond-Webb <Russell.Diamond-Webb@nottscc.gov.uk>
Public Health Nurse/other health contact/s		https://derbyshireteenhealth.nhs.uk/ ChatHealth 07507330025 Derbyshire Family Health Service: 01246 515100
Emotional Health and Well-being Services	Bolsover and North East District CAMHS Specialist Community Adviser: Sophie Tipple: sophie.tipple@nhs.net Tel: 07825 995 967 CAMHS The Den, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Calow, Chesterfield, S44 5BL. Tel: 01246 514412 Urgent Crisis CAMHS team, The Den, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Calow, S44 5BL. Tel: 07901330724 10.00-22.00 7days a week	

	Derby	Derbyshire
	Build Sound Minds: 01629 533190 https://services.actionforchildren.org.uk/derbyshire/build-sound-minds/make-a-referral/ https://derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk/	
Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Derby City • Derbyshire constabulary - information and advice about domestic abuse webpages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Derbyshire domestic abuse webpage • Derbyshire constabulary - information and advice about domestic abuse webpages
Harmful Sexual Behaviour Service	Action for Children Pathway Programme Service for harmful sexual behaviours. Please note this service is for children in Derbyshire who are living with their birth family. pathwayservice@actionforchildren.org.uk	
Cyberchoices	For children at risk of being drawn into cybercrime via East Midlands Cyber Secure	
Homelessness or at risk of homelessness	Derby city council homelessness webpages	https://www.northern-derbyshire.gov.uk/housing-and-health/homelessness#support

Key National Contacts Organisation	Description and contact details
NSPCC helpline for adults	Helping adults protect children 24 hours a day. For help and support, including anyone needing advice about female genital mutilation, young people affected by gangs, concerns that someone may be a victim of modern slavery contact the NSPCC trained helpline counsellors on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text 88858 • 0808 800 5000 • help@nspcc.org.uk
NSPCC helpline Report Abuse in Education	Bespoke helpline for children and young people who've experienced abuse at school, and for worried adults and professionals who need support and guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0800 136 663 • help@nspcc.org.uk
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice	Free advice and support for professionals concerned about how child protection issues are being handled in their organisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0800 028 0285 • help@nspcc.org.uk
UK Safer Internet Centre professional advice line	Helpline for professionals working with children and young people in the UK with any online safety issues

Key National Contacts Organisation	Description and contact details
	they may face themselves or with children in their care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0844 381 4772 • helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
Police Anti-Terrorist Hot Line number	0800 789 321
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	Hosted by Refuge , Helpline 0808 2000247
Operation Encompass	Resources for schools include free advice from an Education Psychologist about how best to support children via National Helpline 0204 513 9990
Report harmful online content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Safer Internet Centre – report online harm. A national reporting centre that has been designed to assist anyone in reporting harmful content online • CEOP – to report online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating online
Report Abuse in Education helpline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people who have experienced abuse at school and parents and teachers who are concerned about sexual abuse in education settings can call the Report Abuse in Education helpline on 0800 136 663 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWGfL Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service for the children's workforce 0344 2250623 or email hsbsupport@swgfl.org.uk • Stop it now! For worries about a child's sexual behaviour, 0808 1000 900

Section 5 :Ensuring a safe environment for all children

Our academy provides a safe environment where children can learn and develop. This is an essential part of our whole academy approach to safeguarding which incorporates a culture of vigilance where children's welfare is promoted, timely and appropriate safeguarding action is taken for children who need extra help or who may be suffering, or likely to suffer harm.

The academy environment is safe and secure and protects our learners from harm or the risk of harm. Positive behaviours are consistently promoted, and abusive or inappropriate behaviour challenged. A positive and supportive environment is promoted which gives learners a sense of being valued.

Vulnerable children

We recognise that some groups of children are potentially at greater risk of harm than others and have agreed arrangements to ensure the safety of these children:

- **Children who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans).** As a matter of routine, the designated safeguarding lead will hold and use the information that the child has a social worker to ensure that as a matter of routine decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes.

- **For children with a social worker**, the DSL will always consider this fact to ensure any decisions are made in the best interests of the child's welfare and educational outcomes. For example, it will inform decisions about:
 - Responding to authorised absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks
 - The provision of Pastoral and/or academic support
 - In addition, the academy will work with the virtual head as appropriate, regarding the educational attendance, attainment, and progress of Looked After Children with a social worker.

- **Children who are absent from education.** The academy proactively manages and take steps to improve attendance across our community. Attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all of our learners and is everyone's responsibility in the academy.

Children missing education are defined as children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation and becoming NEET (Not in education, employment or training,) later in life.

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of safeguarding. Missing school can be an indicator of abuse and neglect and may also raise concerns about other safeguarding issues, including the criminal exploitation and/or radicalisation of children. We monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance without delay.

We will always follow up with parents/carers when students are not at school. This means that we need to have at least two up-to-date contact numbers for parents/carers and ideally four contacts. Parents should remember to update the academy as soon as possible if the numbers change. Our staff follow first day response calling procedures and escalate where necessary for action to be taken. This could include a home visit where necessary from ACET EWOs. If reasons for absence cannot be ascertained, the academy will consider whether a request to the Police for a safe and well check is necessary.

All staff in the academy understand the importance of regular attendance and our academy has appropriate procedures to follow for unauthorised absence in place and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. This helps identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation and helps prevent the risks of their going missing in future. All staff are alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflict zones, Female Genital mutilation and Forced Marriage.

More information on children missing education is contained in Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024.

We support and monitor attendance and absence carefully to identify learners or cohorts that require support with their attendance and put effective strategies in place. This includes:

- Building strong relationships with families, listening to, and understanding barriers to attendance and working with families to remove them.
- Sharing information and work collaboratively with other schools in the area, the local authority, and other partners when absence is at risk of becoming persistent or severe.

Attendance is a key priority for Shirebrook Academy. Attendance and Pastoral Teams contact parents of children whom are absent from school as part of first day response and the school Education Welfare Officer completes home visits in line with the academy attendance policy.

Students are taught the importance of good attendance via Assemblies, in tutor time and in lessons and students are rewarded for excellent and improved attendance by their Pastoral Teams and as part of the whole school Behaviour and Rewards Policy.

Those students whose attendance decreases are supported to return to Shirebrook Academy by their Pastoral Team, by the Education Welfare Officer and the Safeguarding and Inclusion team as necessary. If there are other safeguarding concerns or if attendance continues to decrease despite support, this is reported to Early Help and where required, DCC Social Care.

The academy also recognises that when children are not in school, such as when a learner is on a reduced timetable, suspended or excluded, they miss the protection and opportunities that education can provide, and can become more vulnerable to harm. Learners who have a social worker, including looked-after children, and previously looked-after children, are especially vulnerable. The academy proactively supports learners in the academy environment and decision-making processes about modified timetables, suspension or exclusion and operate in the best interest of children as outlined in local and national guidance.

In order to safeguard children at risk, there are weekly Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children's Panel meetings led by the DSL with Pastoral and Safeguarding Teams in attendance. Children who require a modified timetable are considered based on comprehensive evidence and working in consultation with multi-agencies. Modified timetables can only be implemented upon agreement by the Principal Mrs Lindsey Burgin and students that may access this provision are reviewed on a fortnightly basis by the Inclusion, Pastoral and Bridge teams with parents/carers. Modified timetables are reported to DCC. Inclusion, Pastoral and Bridge Teams review this provision as a team weekly to ensure students are increasing their education and receiving the right support and provision. Vulnerable children whom have been suspended are checked on by Pastoral Teams and for those whom are vulnerable and under social care, additional support is put into place from the Bridge, Pastoral and Inclusion Teams including the completion of the suspension in The Bridge where safeguarding out of the academy may be a concern.

- **Elective home education.** Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to home educate, the academy will seek to co-ordinate a meeting with both parents/carers Local Authority, and other key professionals where possible. This would be before a final decision has been made, to ensure that both parents/carers have considered what is in the best interests of each child and is particularly important where a child has SEND, is vulnerable, and/or has a social worker or is vulnerable. Academy staff will ensure they have the agreement of both parents (if they share parental responsibility,) where possible.
- Where a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) the local authority should review the plan with parents/carers. Where a child is taken off roll, we will inform the Local Authority of the deletion from our admission register via the system outlined on the [Derby](#) or [Derbyshire](#) Education Welfare webpages.
- **Children who require mental health support.** The academy has an important role to play in supporting the well-being and mental health of our learners. Mental health problems can be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect, or exploitation. We have clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible emotional well-being issues and mental health problems, seek advice from external agencies where appropriate and have clear referral and accountability systems.
- Children are taught the importance of good mental health and wellbeing through Personal Development tutor times, assemblies, and across the wider curriculum including in PE

lessons. Children are supported by their tutors, teachers, and Pastoral and Safeguarding teams and concerns are recorded by staff on MyConcern/ACET referral form and parents/carers informed as appropriate. Children are signposted to services including Kooth and positive mental health strategies suggested. Those who require additional support for lower threshold mental health concerns are referred to internal support such as ELSA by the Inclusion Referral pathway. Those who require enhanced support are referred to the School Nurse, GP, CAMHS adviser, Build Sound Minds, MenTalk or Urgent Crisis CAMHs as needed.

- **Looked after children and previously looked after children.**
- Virtual school Heads have a non-statutory responsibility for the strategic oversight of the education attendance, attainment and progress of students with a social worker. They should identify and engage with key professionals e.g., DSLs, social workers, mental health leads and others.
- The academy ensures that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her. The designated safeguarding lead has:
 - Details of the child's social worker, and
 - The name and contact details of the virtual school head and the relevant support officer in the authority that looks after the child
 - The name of the Personal Advisor appointed to support a child who has left care

When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, the school/college will work with all local authority children's social care, health and other relevant agencies and take prompt action when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group. The academy has a named designated teacher, who works with the Virtual School, to promote the educational achievement of learners who are looked after, have left care through adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangement orders, or adopted from state care outside of England and Wales. The designated teacher has appropriate training, relevant qualifications, and experience.

- **Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or health issues.** The Designated Safeguarding lead and SENCo/named person with oversight of SEND will closely liaise whenever there are any concerns or reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation involving a child with SEND, neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism or certain medical or physical health conditions. The academy will consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place.
- **Children with a family member in prison.** These children will be provided with support by their Pastoral Team and given opportunities to ask questions and discuss concerns.
- **Children required to give evidence in court.**
- Children required to give evidence in criminal court, either for crimes committed against them or crimes they have witnessed, will be offered appropriate pastoral support. Children will be provided with the age appropriate 'Going to Court' booklet from HMCTS (His Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service) where appropriate and given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns. Young Witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds- GOV.UK www.gov.uk Young Witness booklet for 12 to 17 year olds Gov.UK www.gov.uk
- **Children who are, or may be, lesbian, gay, bi, trans and gender variant/questioning (LGBTQ+).**

While the fact that children may identify as LGBTQ+ is not in itself a risk factor for harm, it needs to be recognised by staff that they can be targeted by other children, even if they are simply perceived to be LGBTQ+ (whether they are or not.) However, the CASS review identified that caution is necessary for children questioning their gender as there remains many unknowns about the impact of social transition and children may well have wider

vulnerabilities, including having complex mental health and psychosocial needs, and in some cases additional diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

It is recommended that when families/carers are making decision about support for gender questioning children, they should be encouraged to seek clinical help and advice. When parents are supporting pre-pubertal children, clinical services should ensure that they can be seen as early as possible by a clinical professional with relevant experience.

As such, when supporting a gender questioning child, the academy will take a cautious approach and consider the broad range of their individual needs, in partnership with the child's parents, (other than in exceptionally rare circumstances where involving parents would constitute a significant risk of harm to the child.)

The academy will take steps to reduce the additional barriers these children face and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with at least one trusted adult in the academy.

- Our School Ethos and Values and our Equality and Diversity values are displayed and discussed by all staff daily in lessons, tutor times and assemblies. *LGBTQ+ inclusion is taught as part of our Personal Development programme, assemblies and through celebration of events such as PRIDE. Students on the Student Council have specific roles and this includes an Inclusion Ambassador role in each Key Stage. Pastoral and Inclusion teams provide support for all students and the Inclusion area provides a safe space for any child who requires it during lessons, at break and lunch times and before/after school.*
- Pastoral and Inclusion staff also contact the local LGBTQ+ team based in Chesterfield for additional support and advice for children and parents who request it
- Incidents of homophobic/transphobic bullying are reported, by staff acted on by the Safeguarding and Pastoral teams and parents/carers of both parties informed. Support and/or sanctions are put in place as needed for those involved in any form of bullying. Restorative Justice forms a key part of how we help to resolve conflict between children and work towards mutually beneficial resolutions. Statistics including numbers and types of bullying are reported to our Local Governing at each Local Governing Body Meeting – x4 per academic year.

- **Private fostering**

In addition to the above the academy recognises the additional vulnerability of children in private fostering arrangements. A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. See [Children Act 1989: private fostering](#). When such arrangements come to our attention, we will advise the local authority.

We also recognise that in addition to the above, other factors can increase a child's vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, or neglect such as:

- In a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as parental substance (drugs and/or alcohol) misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- Misusing drugs and or alcohol
- Being an asylum seeker/refugee
- Being from our new communities
- Living away from home, including private fostering arrangements, or have returned home to their family from care
- Are at risk of homelessness or living in temporary accommodation
- Living in chaotic, neglectful, and unsupportive home situations

- Vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of age, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity leave, disability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), religion/belief, gender, sex, or sexual orientation
- Being a young carer
- Not speaking or not having English as a first language
- Being involved in the court system
- Children affected by parental offending or with family members in prison (these children will be provided with Pastoral support as necessary and given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns.)

All students are supported by their Pastoral Teams including a form tutor, Pastoral Support Manager, Pastoral and Learning Lead and Leadership Team link. Additional support for those students who need it are is provided by the Safeguarding and Inclusion Teams and students may be referred for additional support through the Inclusion referral system and triaged at Inclusion Referral meetings and at the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children's Panel meetings.

Staff are informed of high-profile vulnerable children via staff briefings and Pastoral Team meetings.

Support for Polish EAL students and their parents/carers is offered in terms of translated letters and contact/support in meetings from our EAL Teaching Assistant Dorota Fidler.

We work with the Local Authority to source translation services for any students/families that may need additional support.

Teaching safeguarding

We are committed to offering our learners preventative education to ensure that learners are aware of safeguarding risks, recognise when they are at risk and how and where to get help and support if they need it. They will be taught about healthy relationships online and offline, how to keep themselves and others safe, including online. To be effective, we employ [best practice principles](#) to help create a safe classroom environment and to plan and teach effectively. The academy recognises this will need to be tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individual children, including those who have been victims of abuse and children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Our preventative education forms part of our whole academy approach to prepare our learners for life in modern Britain, encourages open debate about different points of view and beliefs and creates a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/ misandry, disablism, racism, homophobia, biphobia and sexual violence and harassment. It is responsive to contextual, local and national data, issues and trends to ensure it is meeting the challenges that children/young people are facing.

The academy's core values and standards, alongside the fundamental British Values, are upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of the academy. This is underpinned by the academy's behaviour policy, pastoral support system and our planned evidence-based relationships education/relationships and sex education and health education and reinforced throughout the whole curriculum.

See Shirebrook Academy's Relationships Education/Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Policy and Behaviour Policy.

Online safety

Online safety and protecting learners from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material forms part of the whole academy approach to safeguarding, including policies, curriculum, staff training, roles and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead and parental engagement. The academy has filtering and monitoring systems in place, which meet DfE [filtering and monitoring standards](#). This includes:

- Identifying and assigning roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems
- Reviewing filtering and monitoring provision at least annually
- Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning
- Having effective monitoring strategies in place that meet safeguarding needs

The academy protects and educates learners and staff in their use of technology, including where they are learning remotely, and has mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate any concerns where this is needed.

The academy online safety policy outlines how the four areas of risk, content, contact, conduct and commerce, will be addressed to protect and educate learners and staff. It also incorporates the use of mobile and smart technology and appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and networks. Security protection procedures which meet the [Cyber security standards for schools and colleges](#) are in place in order to safeguard the systems, staff and learners and review the effectiveness of these procedures to keep up with ever evolving cyber-crime technologies. The academy is also in regular communication with parents and carers and uses these communications to reinforce online safety and the systems the academy uses to protect children from online harms.

To ensure that online safety is effective, especially as technology and the associated risks and harms evolve and change, the academy undertakes an annual review and risk assessment. For more information see the academy Teaching Online Safety Policy 2023.

Systems for children to report concerns and abuse

Our academy recognises the importance of ensuring that all children feel heard and understood.

We have a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings in any measures the academy may put in place to protect them. Whenever there are any concerns, the child's wishes will be taken into account when determining what action to take and what services are provided. The welfare and safety of a child is of paramount concern and staff will act in the best interests of the child.

We understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their circumstances and any concerns they may have. Some children may feel unable to report their concerns or abuse, others may have additional barriers to telling someone or may not recognise what is happening is abusive.

The academy has an open and accepting attitude towards children and promotes a positive and supportive environment as part of our responsibility for pastoral care. Our academy ethos promotes trusted relationships between learners and all staff which supports children to tell staff about any concerns they may have.

Children, parents/carers, and all staff will be free to talk about any concerns and see the academy as a safe place. Many children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice or

react to, others may make indirect reports via a friend or staff may overhear conversations. All staff are alert to this and to the potential need for early help and are aware of the indicators of abuse, exploitation and neglect and know what actions they should take.

The academy has systems in place for children to complain and/or confidently report their concerns, including any form of abuse or neglect, including child-on-child abuse, and know that their concerns will be treated seriously. Children are informed by staff in lessons, during Tutor time and assemblies that they can report any concerns to any member of staff but that there is a Safeguarding Team whom are designated to support them with any safeguarding concerns. Children are made aware that all concerns will be treated seriously but that staff cannot promise confidentiality as it is our duty to keep children safe and act on concerns raised.

Working with parents and carers

We recognise the importance of working together with parents/carers to educate as well as safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Shirebrook Academy will ensure that:

- We work with parents positively, openly and honestly
- Parents are encouraged to discuss their issues or concerns about safety and welfare of children, including any worries about a child's emotional well-being or mental health. They will be listened to and taken seriously
- Parents/carers are aware there is a whole academy safeguarding approach to ensure that children are kept safe and well, and as part of this the academy is part of the Stopping Domestic Abuse Together (SDAT) initiative (the local version of Operation Encompass)
- We will provide parents with information about safeguarding issues, such as child exploitation (sexual and criminal), child-on-child abuse, emotional well-being/mental health, online safety, including sharing nudes and semi-nudes, harmful sexual behaviour, and terrorist/extremist material. We will also outline the support available to keep children safe within the academy, locally and nationally
- Up to date and accurate information is kept about learners i.e.
 - names and contact persons with whom the child normally lives
 - those with parental responsibility
 - where reasonably possible, we hold more than one emergency contact number
 - if different from above, those authorised to collect the child from the setting
 - name and contact details of GP
 - any relevant court orders or any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child
- Information about our learners given to us by children themselves, their parents, or carers or by other agencies will remain confidential. Staff will be given relevant information on a 'need to know' basis in order to support the child
- It is made clear to parents and carers that the academy has a duty to share information when there are any safeguarding concerns. Also, that there is a duty to keep records which relate to safeguarding work by the academy, or partner agencies. These will be kept securely, kept apart from the main pupil/student record and only accessible to key members of staff. Copies of these records will be securely sent to any education provider to which the child transfers and a confirmation of receipt obtained
- Where we have reason to be concerned about the welfare of a child, we will always seek to discuss this with the child's parents or carers first. However, there may be occasions where we are not able to do this, for example, when by doing so, it places the child at additional risk or where it may not be possible to speak to the parents/carers

Dropping off and picking up students before and after school

Enrolment procedures

On enrolment, parents/carers will be asked to provide the following information:

- The names and full addresses of each parent and carer (including confirmation of parental responsibility or private fostering arrangements plus any relevant paperwork supporting this)
- Home, work and mobile numbers
- Email addresses where appropriate
- Two or more authorised adult contacts who may be contacted if the parent/carers are unobtainable or in the case of an emergency
- Information about any person who is denied legal access to the child (including copies of any relevant legal documents.)

This information is safely stored and will be reviewed annually. It is also the parents'/carers' responsibility to keep their details up-to-date and they should inform the school about changes of mobile number/address/parental responsibility/emergency contacts.

Children travelling to and from school without parental supervision

There is no law that determines the legal age a child can travel to and from school unsupervised.

Parents and carers must make this decision based on their child's maturity, ability, safety and the distance from home.

There is no law that determines what age a sibling can accompany a child to and from school. It is the parents'/carers' responsibility to decide when they think this is appropriate.

Parents and carers should take the following into account when making this decision:

- The maturity of all the children involved
- The length and nature of the journey to and from school
- The behaviour of all the children involved
- The relationship between the children collecting and being collected

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure their child is collected from school.

If a parent/carer is late when collecting their child, the school will then follow these procedures:

- Contact parents/carers
- Call emergency contacts if the parents/carers are unobtainable so an authorised adult can collect the child
- Keep a record of late collections

If a parent/carer has authorised for someone else to collect their child and that designated person is late, school will then phone the parent/carer and inform them of this information.

If a parent/carer is persistently late collecting a child, the school will contact parents/carers and discuss this concern- this will also be recorded as a safeguarding log on our school MyConcern system.

If this persists, then a referral to social care may need to be made by the DSL.

If parents/carers are unable to collect their child from school and have arranged for someone else to collect their child, then school must be notified by the parent/carer as soon as possible.

Identification will be requested by Shirebrook Academy Admin office when the person comes to collect the child.

If nobody comes to collect a child then the school will make every effort to contact the parents/carers/emergency contact or authorised person whose details have been provided.

If a child is due to be collected at 3.10pm and they have still not been collected by 4pm, then safeguarding procedures will be followed and social care contacted.

Until a child is collected, the child will be supervised by two members of staff one of which will be a DSL/DDSL/the Safeguarding officer.

The event will then be logged by the DSL and added to the child's safeguarding file- if a child is already under social care, this will also be reported to their social worker.

Shirebrook Academy will not let students leave with any unauthorised person without contacting parents/carers first.

If a child's social worker is planning on collecting a child from school, this should be agreed in advance with the child's parents/carers.

If an unauthorised person arrives at Shirebrook Academy to collect a child, the school will contact the child's legal guardians. If the legal guardians are unobtainable, then Shirebrook Academy staff will not release the child.

If the unauthorised person refuses to leave school site, becomes aggressive or attempts to take the child, then the Police will be contacted and a safeguarding record made of the incident.

Travel services between home and school

Travel by school bus, public transport bus, car and taxi are all methods of transport to and from school that are used by children attending Shirebrook Academy.

It is the local authority's responsibility to ensure that home to school arrangements are in place and Shirebrook Academy will support these arrangements and ensure the safeguarding of the children that use these modes of transport.

In England, the Department for Education (DfE) provides statutory guidance on home-to-school travel and transport for local authorities in England (DfE, 2023)

Section 6: Responding to concerns about a child's welfare

Key points to remember for any member of staff (including volunteers or supply staff) or visitors whenever they have any concerns about a child's welfare:

- In an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999

- Do not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical to keeping a child safe. Early information sharing is vital in keeping children safe, whether this is when problems first emerge, or when a child is already known to local authority children's social care
- Report your concern, including any possible [private fostering](#) arrangements, to the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy as soon as you can and by the end of the day at the latest.
- If you are unsure speak to the Designated Safeguarding lead or their deputy
- If the Designated Safeguarding lead or their deputy is not around, ensure the information is shared with the most senior person in the academy that day. The concerns and any action taken must then be shared with the designated safeguarding lead as soon as it is possible
- If the concerns are about sharing nudes and semi-nudes do not view, copy, print or share the images
- Share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends, or family
- As soon as you are able complete a record of the concerns. This should be on the same day and before the child is due to leave the school premises Staff report concerns on MyConcern/ACET Concern Referral Form in as much detail as possible so that these can be acted upon by the Safeguarding Team and triaged as needed. Staff should immediately verbally report concerns related to children who are at immediate risk or whom have presented with an injury or whom appear under the influence of drugs or alcohol to a DSL in the first instance. Concerns should be reported immediately, with all concerns before 3pm so the Safeguarding Team can respond and act as needed whilst children are still in attendance in the academy.
- Seek support for yourself if you are distressed via supervision from the Trust's Chief Safeguarding Officer.

Staff must always **immediately** inform the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy if there are any:

- Concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect, including suspicion that a child is injured, marked, or bruised in a way which is not readily attributable to the normal knocks or scrapes received in play
- Searching incidents where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a learner was in possession of a prohibited item⁵ or where a search has revealed a safeguarding risk
- Behaviour or changes in presentation, including changes in school attendance, which gives rise to suspicions that a child may not be receiving adequate care or may be suffering harm
- Hint or disclosure of abuse about or by a child
- Concerns that a person(s) who may pose a risk to children is living in a household with children present
- Concerns about online abuse including cybercrime, exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, sharing nudes and semi nudes and/or where any adult appears to be sexually communicating (e.g., email, text, written note or verbally) with a child
- Concerns about child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and harassment
- Information which indicates that the child is living with someone who does not have parental responsibility for them (this is known as private fostering)

⁵ Prohibited items include knives and weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco, cigarette papers, fireworks pornographic images; any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used, to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the learner).

- Concerns that a child is at risk of domestic abuse or so-called 'honour-based' abuse, including forced marriage, marriage or civil partnership under the age of 18, female genital mutilation (FGM), breast ironing, virginity testing or hymenoplasty
- Concerns that a child is at risk of radicalisation, child sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation, including county lines; or that a child or their parent/carer may be a victim of modern slavery (trafficked)

There will also be occasions when you suspect that a child may be at risk, but you have no 'real' evidence or that the child may need support with their mental health. The child's behaviour and or appearance may have changed, their attendance at the academy may have reduced, their ability to concentrate and focus may have altered, or you may have noticed other behavioural and or physical but inconclusive signs. In these circumstances, you should try to give the child the opportunity to talk. The signs you have noticed may be due to a variety of factors and it is fine to ask the child if they are alright or if you can help in any way.

It is not the responsibility of the academy staff to determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation; this is the responsibility of local authority children's social care. All staff however have a duty to recognise where extra support is needed or where there are complex needs or child protection concerns requiring intensive or specialist support.

Ensure you record these early concerns using *My Concern reporting system*. If a child or adult does begin to reveal that a child is being harmed, you should follow the advice in the section '*if a child chooses to tell a member of staff about a concern or abuse*'.

Remember: If you are unsure, you should always have a discussion with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy

If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about a concern or abuse

It takes a lot of courage for a child, parent, carer, or other significant adult to disclose that they are worried or have concerns. They may feel ashamed, the abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell, they may have lost all trust in adults, or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault. It is important they are reassured that they are being taken seriously, and that they will be supported and kept safe. They should not be made to feel they are creating a problem, blamed or ashamed for making a report. Reports, particularly those about sexual violence and harassment, if possible, should be managed with two members of staff present (preferably one being the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy), however this might not be possible in all cases.

If a child or adult talks to you about any risks to a child's safety or wellbeing you will need to let them know that you must pass the information on – you are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which you do this is a matter for professional judgement.

During your conversation with the child (or their parent/carer):

- Allow them to speak freely, listen to what is being said without interruption and without asking leading questions
- Keep questions to a minimum and of an open nature ('TED questions' tell me, explain, describe) i.e., 'can you tell me what happened?' rather than 'did x hit you?'

- Remain calm and do not overreact – the child (or their parent/carer) may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting you
- Give reassuring nods or words of comfort – ‘I’m so sorry this has happened’, ‘I want to help’, ‘This isn’t your fault’, ‘You are doing the right thing in talking to me’
- Avoid admonishing the child or adult for not disclosing earlier. Saying ‘I do wish you had told me about this when it started’ or ‘I can’t believe what I’m hearing’ may be your way of being supportive but they may interpret it that they have done something wrong
- Do not be afraid of silences – remember how hard this must be for the child or adult
- Under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what do other family members think about all this
- At an appropriate time tell the child or adult that to help them you must pass the information on
- Do not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort; it may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused
- Tell the child or adult what will happen next. The child or adult may agree to go with you to see the designated safeguarding lead. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see or contact them before the end of the day
- Report verbally to the designated safeguarding lead
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible and hand it to the designated safeguarding lead
- Children should not be asked to write statements about abuse or any concerns that may have happened to them or sign the staff record
- Seek support if you feel distressed. This may be sometime after the disclosure

Role of the Designated Safeguarding lead and their deputy following identification of concerns

Whenever the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy receive information regarding concerns about a child, including via police domestic abuse notifications (Stopping Domestic Abuse Together/SDAT) they will:

- Review information received and assess if any urgent actions are needed, i.e., medical, child’s immediate safety
- Check what is known about the child when they arrived (or not) at school today, how they are presenting physically and emotionally and if there are any changes in their behaviour
- Consider what is already known about the child and their family, including whether any previous concerns have been raised by staff or if they are already known to local authority children’s services (targeted early help or social care)
- Consider what ‘checks’ need to be carried out and how best these can be achieved
- Inform relevant school staff who have a specific need to know i.e., class/form teacher and relevant support staff
- Where appropriate use relevant national, local and education-based risk identifying, assessment tools and guidance to support the identification of needs and decision making, such as:
 - Academy based records, assessments, and chronologies, including any contextual factors/placed based risks
 - DDSCP multi-agency guidance, tools and briefing notes, for example Vulnerability of children not in school guidance, Children and Young People Missing from Home or Care protocol, Self-harm and Suicidal Behaviour Guidance, Briefing Note: Harmful Online Challenges and Hoaxes, Guidelines for gathering information and assessing the needs of children whose parents have drug/alcohol issues, Practice Guidance

Child Sexual Abuse within the Family, Practice Guidance for responding to Adults and Child Victims of Modern Slavery, Male Circumcision guidance, Was not brought guidance, Childhood Obesity: Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding guidance for practitioners, Guidance for responding to Adults and Child Victims of Modern Slavery, Schools Stopping Domestic Abuse Together Guidance, Domestic Violence Risk Identification Matrix (DVRIM), Safelives DASH Risk Identification Checklist (domestic abuse risk to adults), Children at Risk of Exploitation assessment, Graded Care Profile (neglect); see DDSCP safeguarding children procedures [documents library](#)

- National guidance and assessment tools e.g. [Stop it now](#) (sexual behaviours), [Contextual safeguarding](#) tools, [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)
- Not directly approaching a child or parent/carer about an incident when the academy has received a domestic abuse notification (SDAT) and instead make general enquiries with the child about how they are. If a child initiates a conversation about the incident the guidance outlined in the section '*If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about a concern or abuse*' will be followed
- Following the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures](#) and using the DDSCP [Threshold document](#) to support decision making about the child's needs and the appropriate level of support and intervention. Possible options include internal support via academy pastoral systems, early help assessment and referral to statutory services such as local authority children's services
- Considering whether the matter should be discussed with the child's parents or carers or whether to do so may put the child at further risk of harm, see Notifying parents
- If unsure about the action to take, including if a child protection referral should be made, seeking advice from local authority children's social care or another appropriate agency
- If the concerns are about radicalisation or violent extremism, making a referral to the police Prevent Team. The DfE has a dedicated telephone helpline 020 7340 7264 hotline on which academy staff and governors can call to raise concerns about extremism with respect to a student. Academy staff can also email counter.extremism@education.gov.uk. This is not for emergency situations. In an emergency, academy staff should call 999 or the emergency confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 if they think someone is in immediate danger, thinks someone may be planning to travel to join an extremist group or see or hear something that may be terror related.
- Where the child has complex needs or where there are child protection concerns, referring as appropriate to Local Authority Children's Services via agreed processes, providing a copy of the early help assessment, action plan and any other relevant assessments
- Notify the appropriate Local Authority Children's Services of any private fostering arrangements, to allow the local authority to check the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child
- If a child is at risk of immediate harm, and/or where it is believed a criminal offence has been committed, including sexual violence and harassment, referring to the police. See [NSPCC When to call the police; guidance for schools and colleges](#). Safeguarding considerations must take priority and include how screening, searching, and confiscating powers will be used safely, proportionately, and appropriately, including undertaking a police strip search on a child and the requirement for children to have an [appropriate adult](#).; see [Searching, screening and confiscation at school guidance](#) (2022)
- In all cases where children are believed to be at risk of exploitation, complete and submit an [Information Sharing Form for Professionals Operation Liberty / Operation Blofeld](#) to raise concerns and share information

Notifying parents/carers

The academy will normally seek to discuss any needs or concerns about a child with their parents or carers. Where an early help assessment would benefit the child and their family the most appropriate member of staff should approach the parent/carer to take this forward. In situations where there are serious needs or child protection concerns the Designated Safeguarding lead or deputy will contact the parent or carer. However, if the setting believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, then advice will first be sought from local authority children's social care.

Pastoral/school-based support (universal support/ low level needs)

In all cases the academy will consider what support could be offered within the setting via pastoral support processes. Each child is provided with support from their Pastoral Team (tutor, Pastoral Support Manager, Pastoral Learning Lead and Leadership Team Associate) as part of the Graduated Response strategy. Children who then require additional support are referred by the Inclusion Referral system and discussed at Inclusion Referral Meetings and at the Safeguarding and Vulnerable Children's panel meetings. Pastoral support is kept under constant review to ensure that it is effective.

Early Help support and assessment (emerging needs)

Where a child is likely to require co-ordinated support from a range of early help services, or where there are concerns for a child's well-being or a child's needs are not clear, not known or not being met, the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy will support the completion of an early help assessment (EHA) and if needed, co-ordinate a team around the family (TAF).

Children whom need an Early Help assessment are identified by the Safeguarding Team and support put into place either at school led level from Paul Davies, Early Help practitioner, Emma Hutton Student and Family Support Worker and Emily Ibbotson Safeguarding Officer or from DCC North East Derbyshire Early help team after the referral has been submitted and triaged.

Whenever a child and their family are supported via an early help assessment, the academy will keep this under constant review and should the child's situation appear not to be improving or getting worse, consideration will be given to a referral to local authority children's services.

The DSL will take the lead where Early Help is indicated. This will include liaison with other agencies and setting up inter-agency assessments as deemed appropriate and in line with Early Help processes. The DSL will keep cases under review including the monitoring of interventions and give consideration to a referral to Local Authority Children's Social Care for a statutory assessment if the child's situation is not improving or is worsening.

For more information about the early help assessment process see Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children; [Providing early help](#) procedure.

Referral to local authority children's social care (intensive and specialist support)

Concerns about a child's welfare will be referred to local authority children's social care using the agreed referral process as outlined in Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children; [Making a referral to Children's Social Care procedure](#).

If at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child, an immediate referral should be made to local authority children's social care and/or if appropriate, the police

Anybody can make the referral

Where it is believed that there are urgent child protection concerns, the Designated Safeguarding lead or deputy will make a referral to local authority children's social care by phone and follow this up in 'writing' via the local authority Online Referral System. Non-urgent cases will be referred via the local authority Care Online Referral System. In Derby submission of an early help assessment, or equivalent assessment, to the weekly Vulnerable Children meeting (VCM) in the relevant locality can also be made.

In exceptional circumstances, such as in an emergency or a genuine concern that appropriate action hasn't been taken, any staff member can refer their concerns directly to local authority children's social care; however, they should inform the designated safeguarding lead or deputy as soon as possible.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

If the referral is about a 'known' case of female genital mutilation (FGM), in addition to a referral to local authority children's social care, the individual teacher also has a mandatory reporting duty; see [Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation; procedural information](#) (2015). Under this duty, 'known' cases of FGM where a girl under 18 informs the person that an act of FGM has been carried out on her, or where physical signs appear to show that an act of FGM was carried out, this must be reported to the police on 101. This is a personal responsibility in addition to the referral to local authority children's social care and the professional who identifies FGM and/or receives the disclosure should make the report by the close of the next working day.

Action following referral

The Designated Safeguarding lead, their deputy or other appropriate member of staff will:

- Where a referral was made by phone follow up the referral in writing using the online referral system within 48 hours and attaching any existing assessment e.g., early help assessment. In all cases the academy will also include information held about any place-based risks (harm outside of the home)
- Be aware that local authority children's social care should make a decision within one working day of the referral being made about what course of action they are taking and let the academy know the outcome. If the information is not forthcoming, the designated safeguarding lead or another appropriate member of staff should follow this up
- Maintain contact with the allocated social worker and support them or other agencies following any referral
- Contribute to any strategy discussion or meetings
- Support any Section 47 enquiries or statutory assessments that are carried out
- Provide a report for, attend, and contribute to any initial and review Child Protection Conference. This includes sharing any reports with parents/carers and where appropriate, the child
- Share the content of this report with the parent/carer and if appropriate the child, prior to the meeting
- Attend core group meetings for any child subject to a Child Protection plan or Child in Need meeting for any child subject to a Child in Need plan
- Whenever there are concerns about the outcome of a Child Protection Conference, use the appropriate [Derby](#) or [Derbyshire](#) Child Protection Conference Professional Dissent Process
- Where a child on a Child Protection plan, Child in Need plan or who is Looked After moves from the academy or if there are unexplained absences from school, immediately inform the child's social worker/key worker in local authority children's social care
- If after the referral the child's situation does not appear to be improving the designated safeguarding lead should press for re-consideration to ensure their concerns have been

addressed and the child's situation improves. See Derby and Derbyshire [Multi-Agency Dispute Resolution and Escalation Policy](#)

Communication and Confidentiality

The academy recognises the importance of information sharing between the academy and local agencies to effectively safeguard our learners. The setting operates with regard to HM Government [Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) (2018) and DDSCP [Information Sharing Guidance for Practitioners](#) (2022).

All staff will be mindful of the seven golden rules to sharing information (See Appendix 3) and [Data Protection Act](#) (2018) and [UK General Data Protection Regulation](#) (UK GDPR) obligations. Staff are aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe and promoting their welfare. If staff need to share 'special category personal data' the DPA 2018 contains 'Safeguarding of Children and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent if it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would put a child at risk.

Academy staff should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of a child, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care.

If in any doubt about sharing information, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy

Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare, and protect the safety, of children

Staff should only discuss concerns with the designated safeguarding lead or deputy (or the most senior person on the premises if they are unavailable), principal or chair of governors/trustees (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Wherever possible consent will be sought to share information. However, where there are safeguarding concerns about a child, information will be shared with the appropriate organisations such as local authority children's social care. In most cases concerns will be discussed with parents and carers prior to the referral taking place unless doing so would increase risk.

The academy's policy on information-sharing is available to parents and children on request.

Record keeping

All concerns, discussions and decisions made and the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing using the academy's agreed processes. If in doubt about recording requirements staff should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy.

Records of concerns documentation, referrals and other written safeguarding information are kept in a child protection file for each child and stored separately from each child's education file; this file is 'tagged' to indicate that separate information is held. Child protection files are confidential and stored securely and only made available to relevant individuals.

Records will include:

- A clear and comprehensive summary of the concern
- Details of how the concern was followed up and resolved
- A note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome, as well as a review of any progress made. Any professional differences of opinion about the safety of a child will also be recorded; see DDSCP Multi Agency [Dispute Resolution and Escalation Policy](#) and [Derby](#) or [Derbyshire](#) Child Protection Conference Professional Dissent Process

When a child leaves the academy, the Designated Safeguarding lead will ensure a copy of these records will be sent securely as soon as possible (within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term) to any academy or other education setting to which the child transfers and a confirmation of receipt obtained. The child protection file transfer will be separate to the main pupil file. This will allow the new provider to continue supporting the child and have the support in place for when the child arrives.

The Designated Safeguarding lead will also consider if it would be appropriate to share any information with the new education provider in advance of the child leaving e.g., children who have or who have had a social worker and those receiving support through the Channel programme.

The Designated Safeguarding lead, their deputy and key staff such as special education needs co-ordinators will be informed when a child's safeguarding/child protection file is received.

Support for those involved in a safeguarding/child protection issue

Child neglect, abuse and exploitation are devastating for children and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved. We will support the children and their families and staff by:

- Taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- Nominating a link person who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact
- Nominating a 'case manager' where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a child
- Responding sympathetically to any request from a child or member of staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- Maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- Storing records securely
- Offering details of helplines, counselling, or other avenues of external support
- Following the procedures laid down in our whistleblowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- Co-operating fully with relevant statutory agencies
- Sign posting staff to HR contacts and the Trust's Chief Safeguarding Officer

Section 7: Child-on-child abuse, including sexual violence and harassment

All staff working in or on behalf of the academy maintain an attitude of *'it could happen here'* – this is especially important when considering child-on-child abuse. Even if there are no reports it does not mean it is not happening.

If staff have any concerns regarding child-on-child abuse, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy

The academy recognises that children may abuse their peers physically, sexually, and emotionally. There is a zero-tolerance approach to child-on-child abuse; abuse is abuse and this will not be tolerated or passed off as 'banter', 'just having a laugh', 'boys being boys' or 'part of growing up' as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

At Shirebrook Academy, students are informed in tutor times, in lessons and in assemblies, that we do not accept derogatory language and that all incidents of bullying and harassment are reported and dealt with via the Behaviour Policy and sanctions/actions put in place as required. Staff report concerns via MyConcern/ACET Concern referral form and through reporting incidents of Sexualised Language/Harassment on the Neon pink reporting forms, which are passed and reported immediately to the DSL. These are acted upon and action taken as necessary by the DSL and Safeguarding team including referrals to the Police and DCC Social Care. We adhere to the *DDSCP Child-on-Child Abuse Strategy* recognising that the issue requires a partnership-wide strategic response.

The setting will take child-on-child abuse as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult and address it through the same processes as any safeguarding issue. We will respond to all reports and concerns, including those that have happened outside of the academy and / or online. In addition, we also recognise that children who abuse others and any other child affected by child-on-child abuse are also likely to have considerable welfare and safeguarding issues themselves.

What is child-on-child abuse?

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2024) defines child-on-child abuse as most likely to include but not limited to:
 - Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice based and discriminatory bullying)
 - Abuse within intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as 'teenage relationship abuse')
 - Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and /or encourages physical abuse)
 - Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and /or encourages sexual violence)
 - Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
 - Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party

- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and or videos
- Upskirting⁶, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm
- Initiating/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)
- It can also include causing someone to engage in extremist or radicalising behaviour
- Child-on-child abuse exists on a continuum and different forms of abuse may overlap
- It can affect any child/young person of any age and sex and can occur between two children or through a group of children abusing a single child or group of children
- Sometimes vulnerable children are targeted. For example:
 - Those living with domestic abuse or with intra-familial abuse in their histories
 - Young people in care
 - Those who have experienced bereavement through the loss of a parent, sibling, or friend
 - Black and minority ethnic children are under identified as victims but are over identified as perpetrators
 - There is recognition it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys are likely to be perpetrators. However, both girls and boys can experience child-on-child abuse, but they are likely to experience it differently e.g., girls being sexually touched/assaulted or boys being subject to homophobic taunts/initiation/hazing (rituals and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group)
 - Evidence also shows that children with SEND, and LGBTQ+ children are at greater risk
- It is influenced by the nature of the environments in which children/young people spend their time - home, academy, peer group, online and community - and is built upon notions of power and consent. Power imbalances related to gender, social status within a group, intellectual ability, economic wealth, social marginalisation etc, can all be used to exert power over a peer
- Child-on-child abuse involves someone who abuses a 'vulnerability' or power imbalance to harm another and has the opportunity or is in an environment where this is possible
- While perpetrators of child-on-child abuse pose a risk to others, they are often victims of abuse themselves

Preventing child-on-child abuse

There is a whole academy approach to preventing child-on-child abuse, including child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment; this forms part of the whole academy approach to safeguarding. The academy will seek to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by ensuring an approach that prepares learners for life in modern Britain. The establishment has a clear set of values and standards which are upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of academy life.

The academy provides a safe environment, promotes a culture of positive standards of behaviour, takes steps to address inappropriate behaviour, has effective systems in place where children can confidently raise concerns knowing they will be taken seriously and provides safeguarding

⁶ The Voyeurism (Offences) Act (2019) – upskirting is a criminal offence and anyone of any gender can be a victim

through the curriculum via relationships education/relationships and sex education, online safety, and other curriculum opportunities. This may include targeted work with children identified as vulnerable or being at risk and developing risk assessment and targeted work with those identified as being a potential risk to others.

All staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers that are abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours will not be tolerated or passed off. Staff will maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' and all inappropriate behaviour will be addressed.

The setting deals with a wide continuum of children's behaviour on a day-to-day basis and most cases will be dealt with via academy-based processes. These are outlined in the following policies:

- Shirebrook Academy's behaviour policy, including bullying/ online bullying and prejudice-based bullying and academy screening, searching, and confiscating powers and how they will be used safely, and appropriately, including police strip searches
- Online safety policy and other associated issues, including sharing nudes and semi-nudes and extremist material
- Attendance policy
- Relationships education/ relationships and sex education

Systems for children to report abuse

Even if there are no reports, all staff understand it does not mean it is not happening; it may be the case that it is not being reported. We recognise that children may not find it easy to tell staff about the abuse, that certain children may have additional barriers to telling someone and children can show signs or act in ways they hope adults will notice or react to. In some cases, victims may make indirect reports via a friend or staff may overhear conversations. All staff recognise the indicators and signs of child-on-child abuse and know how to identify it.

See page 24 *Systems for children to report concerns and abuse* for information about the systems in place for children to confidently report abuse.

If staff have any concerns regarding child-on-child abuse, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy

Action on concerns

Child-on-child abuse may be a one-off serious incident or an accumulation of incidents. Staff may be able to easily identify some behaviour/s as abusive however in some circumstances it may be less clear. In particular, reports of sexual violence and harassment are likely to be complex and require difficult professional decisions to be made, often quickly and under pressure. In all cases the initial response to a report is very important. Members of staff will take the concerns seriously and reassure the child that they will be supported and kept safe, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward. If possible, reports should be managed with two members of staff present (preferably one being the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy), however this might not be possible in all cases. The victim will not be given the impression they are creating a problem or made to feel ashamed for making a report or their experience minimised. Abuse which has occurred online or outside of the academy will be treated just as seriously as that which has occurred within the education environment.

Staff must follow *Section 6. Responding to concerns about a child's welfare* and discuss the concerns and seek advice from the designated safeguarding lead.

When an allegation is made by a pupil/student against another pupil/student, members of staff should consider if the issues raised indicate that the child and/or alleged perpetrator may have low level, emerging needs, complex/serious needs, or child protection concerns and follow the process outlined in Section 6. Responding to concerns about a child's welfare.

Considerations for cases where child-on-child abuse is a factor include:

- What are the wishes of victims in terms of how they want to proceed?
- What is the nature, extent and context of the behaviour including verbal, physical, sexual (including sharing of nudes/semi-nudes) and/or online abuse? Was there coercion, physical aggression, bullying, bribery or attempts to ensure secrecy? What was the time, location, duration, and frequency? Is the incident a one off or a sustained pattern of abuse? (Remember there may be other forms of abuse in addition to what has been reported) Were other children and /or adults involved? Has a crime been committed and/or have any harmful sexual behaviours been displayed?
- What is the child's age, development, capacity to understand and make decisions (including anything that might have had an impact on this e.g., coercion), and family and social circumstances? What is the nature of the relationship between the children involved? Are they in a current or previous intimate personal relationship, do they live in the same household or setting, attend the same academy, classes, or transport?
- What are the relative chronological and developmental ages of the children? Does the victim or perpetrator have a disability or learning difficulty? Are there any differentials in power, social standing, or authority?
- Is the behaviour age appropriate or not? Does it involve inappropriate sexual knowledge or motivation?
- Are there any risks to the child victim or alleged perpetrator themselves and others e.g., other children in academy, adult students, academy staff, in the child's household (particularly siblings or other children related to the household), extended family, peer group or wider social network? Are there any links to child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation or gang related activity?

Immediate consideration should be given to how best to support and protect the victim and alleged perpetrator and any other children involved/impacted. Where the report involves rape and assault by penetration, the alleged perpetrator must be removed from any classes they share with the victim. There must also be careful consideration on how best to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator apart on academy premises (including any before or after school activities) and on transport to and from the setting.

For all other reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment and forms of child-on-child abuse, the proximity of the victim and alleged perpetrator and considerations regarding shared classes, academy premises and transport should be considered immediately.

All decisions will be made in the best interests of the children involved and should not be perceived to be a judgement on the guilt of the alleged perpetrator. In all cases, the initial report should be carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the designated safeguarding lead taking a leading role and using their professional judgement, supported by other agencies, such as local authority children's social care and the police as required. The designated safeguarding lead will refer to relevant assessment tools and guidance as appropriate such as:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (September 2024) part five
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)
- [Behaviour in schools](#)
- [School suspension and permanent exclusion](#)
- [Stop it Now Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool](#)
- [DDSCP Thresholds Document](#)
- [DDSCP Safeguarding Children Procedures](#), in particular Children who present a risk of harm to others and Online Safety and Internet Abuse procedures
- [When to call the police – guidance for schools and colleges](#)

Whenever there is an allegation of abuse, including concerns about sexual harassment and violence, made against a child, the designated safeguarding lead and other appropriate staff will draw together separate risk and needs assessments and action plans to support the victim and the alleged perpetrator. These will consider:

- The victim, especially their protection and support
- Whether there have been other victims
- The alleged perpetrator/s
- All the other children (and if appropriate adult students and staff) at the academy, especially any actions that are needed to protect them from the perpetrator/s, or from future harms
- The time and location of the incident and any action required to make the location safer
- When information can be disclosed to staff and others, including the alleged perpetrator and parents/carers

Whenever local authority children's social care and/or the police are involved, the academy will work in collaboration to ensure the best possible support and protection is provided for both the victim and the alleged perpetrator.

All reports of child-on-child abuse (including sexual harassment and/or sexual violence) will be recorded in the child's safeguarding/child protection file. This will include all decision making, risk and needs assessment and plans recorded in writing as outlined in Section 6.

Where appropriate incidents may be managed internally (low level needs), via early help (emerging needs) or through local authority children's social care (complex/serious needs or child protection concerns); reports to the police will be run in parallel with children's social care as outlined in the Derby and Derbyshire multi-agency safeguarding [procedures](#), in particular [Children who Present a Risk of Harm to Others](#) and [Online Safety and Internet Abuse](#) procedures.

All risk and needs assessment and action plans whether internal or multi-agency will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. If things do not improve or deteriorate the situation should be reconsidered.

The academy uses the Contextual Safeguarding School [Beyond Referrals](#) Self-Assessment Toolkit & Guidance to self-assess our response to harmful sexual behaviour. All relevant policies will be updated to reflect the lessons learnt and consideration given to the wider cultural issues within the academy that enabled the behaviour to occur.

Where the victim or alleged perpetrator transfers to another education setting, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure the new provider will be made aware of any on-going support needs (and will discuss this with the victim and where appropriate their parents, as to the most suitable way of doing this) as well as transferring the safeguarding/child protection file. In the case of the alleged perpetrator, where appropriate, this will also include potential risks to other children and staff. See Section 6. Responding to concerns about a child's welfare - record keeping.

Any suspicion or allegations that a child has been sexually abused or is likely to sexually abuse another child (or adult) or where there are concerns about any other form of abuse, a referral must be made immediately to local authority children's social care and where appropriate, the police

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Section 8: Safer recruitment and selection of staff

The academy uses best practice and has adopted robust recruitment procedures as outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2024) to deter and prevent people who are not suitable to work with children from applying, securing employment or volunteering opportunities in the academy. We apply all appropriate measures for our staff, including volunteers, agency and third-party staff (supply staff) trainees/student teachers, governors/trustees, and contractors. This forms a vital part of the whole academy approach to safeguarding and is an essential part of creating a safe environment for our learners.

Those involved with the recruitment and employment of our staff have received appropriate safer recruitment training and at least one person who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.

Safer practice in recruitment means thinking about and including issues to do with child protection and safeguarding children at every stage of the process from advertising, job descriptions/person specifications, application forms, shortlisting, employment history and references, selection and pre-appointment vetting checks.

Everyone who works in the academy, including volunteers and school governors will have appropriate Disclosure and Barring (DBS) and teacher status, teacher and teacher prohibition checks or where appropriate GTCE sanctions and restrictions. Governors/trustees/proprietors will also require section 128 checks. All staff in managerial positions will be subject to a Section 128 check.

Other checks that may be necessary for staff, volunteers, and others:

- **Individuals who have lived or worked outside the UK** – will undergo the same checks as all other staff in the academy and further checks deemed appropriate to ensure suitability
- **Agency and third-party staff (supply staff)** - the academy will obtain written notification from any agency or third-party organisation provider that they have carried out checks on an individual who will be working at the academy that we would otherwise perform.
- **Contractors** - where the academy uses contractors to provide services the contact will set out their safeguarding requirements.
- **Trainee/ student teachers** – applicants salaried by the academy will undergo all necessary checks by the academy. The initial teacher training provider will carry out necessary checks on fee funded trainee teachers and will provide written confirmation that these have been carried out and judged suitable to work with children.
- **Volunteers** - the academy will ensure volunteers are appropriately supervised as outlined in [statutory guidance](#) on supervising the activities of workers and volunteers with children. In addition, risk assessments will be undertaken, and professional judgment/ experience used when deciding whether to obtain an enhanced DBS certificate for any volunteer not engaged in regulated activity. The details of the risk assessment will be recorded.

The academy maintains a single central record of pre-appointment checks consistent with [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2024)

See the Trust's recruitment and selection policy.

Visitors

The academy premises provide a safe learning environment with secure access. We recognise there are different types of visitors, those in a professional capacity, children's relatives or others visiting for school activities or visitors via a third party and have processes in place to ensure they are suitable, are checked and monitored as appropriate.

We recognise the importance of allowing access for local authority children's social care to conduct, or to consider whether to conduct an assessment and that staff from other partner agencies may need to visit to see a child or young person to either safeguard or promote their welfare. To support our decision making about appropriate checks regarding any professional visitor we operate using guidance outlined in the [DDSCP Briefing Note - Professional Visitors to Schools](#). See the academy visitors to the academy policy.

External speakers/visitors

The academy may ask external speakers or visitors to work with children or provide assemblies on subjects such as online safety, relationships/relationships and sex education and health education. On these occasions there will be an assessment of the educational value, the age appropriateness of what is going to be delivered and whether relevant checks will be required, and an assessment made of what will be appropriate supervision. There will also be an agreement made in advance of the session/s on how a safeguarding report should be dealt with by an external visitor. See academy policy/agreement for visitors to the academy.

Staff working in Alternative provision settings

The academy continues to be responsible for any learner placed with an alternative provision provider. Learners in alternative provision often have complex needs and are vulnerable to additional risk of harm.

Where students are placed with an alternative provider, we will ensure that the provider meets the needs of the learner and obtain written confirmation from the provider (and keep this on file,) that they have undertaken the appropriate safeguarding checks on individuals working there that we would otherwise carry out.

The academy maintains the overall responsibility for the safeguarding of students and will liaise with the provider frequently to check on attendance and progress. Half-termly checks on the provider will be carried out by the academy.

Adults who supervise children on work experience

When co-ordinating work experience for students, the academy will ensure in liaison with the placing agencies that policies and procedures are in place to protect student from harm.

Use of academy premises for non-academy activities

Our academy safeguarding arrangements will apply to all activities provided by the academy under the direct supervision of academy staff. Where activities are provided by another body, the governing body/trustees/proprietor will seek assurance that the provider has appropriate safeguarding/child protection policies and procedures in place, as outlined in the [Keeping](#)

[children safe in out-of-school settings guidance](#). This includes arrangements to liaise with the academy where appropriate. This applies regardless of whether or not the children who attend any of these services or activities are children on the academy roll/. Safeguarding requirements are included in all lease/hire agreements.

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Section 9: What staff should do if they have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another member of staff or concerns about safeguarding practices within the school/ college

As part of our whole academy approach to safeguarding there are processes in place for continuous vigilance, maintaining an environment that deters and prevents abuse and challenges inappropriate behaviour. Our culture and environment supports all of our staff to discuss matters that concern them in the workplace and, where appropriate, outside the workplace (including online) which may have implications for the welfare and safety of children.

All concerns and or allegations about adults working in or on behalf of the academy (including supply teachers, contractors, and volunteers) will be reported, recorded, and dealt with promptly and appropriately.

This includes whenever the academy receives an allegation relating to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using their school premises for the purposes of running activities for children.

By doing so everyone in the academy will:

- Create and embed a culture of openness, trust, and transparency
- Help to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour at an early stage
- Minimise risk of abuse
- Ensure that academy staff are clear about professional boundaries and act within these, in accordance with the ethos and value of the academy

The academy recognises there are two levels of allegation/concern

1. Allegations that **may** meet the harms threshold
2. Allegations/concerns that **do not** meet the harms threshold, also known as 'low level concerns'

Our response to concerns/allegations is consistent with the DDSCP Safeguarding Children [Allegations against Staff, Carers and Volunteers](#) procedure.

1. Allegations that may meet the harms threshold

This is where an allegation might indicate that a person would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in their present position, or in any capacity with children in a school or college. Where it is alleged that anyone working in the establishment, including supply teachers, contractors and volunteers has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

This includes any behaviour that may have happened outside academy and is known as transferable risk.

If you have concerns about another staff member

Staff who are concerned about the conduct of a colleague (including supply staff, contractors, and volunteers) must remember that the welfare of the child is paramount.

All concerns of poor practice or concerns about a child's welfare brought about by the behaviour of colleagues should be reported without delay to the principal. Where there are concerns/allegations about the principal this should be referred to the chair of governors. In a situation where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the principal this should be reported directly to the Trust's Chief Safeguarding Officer, CEO or the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The member of staff should make a record which will include time, date, place of incident, persons present, what was witnessed, what was said etc; this should then be signed and dated.

Looking after the welfare of the child

Where a child has been harmed, or there is an immediate risk of harm to a child or if the situation is an emergency, local authority children's social care should be contacted and where appropriate the police. It is the designated safeguarding lead's responsibility to ensure the child is not at risk and refer cases of suspected abuse to children's social care.

For further information about how concerns which may meet the harms threshold will be investigated, recorded and managed, including non-recent allegations by a child and referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) see the trust's staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy, which incorporates low-level concerns, managing allegations against staff and whistleblowing.

2. Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

Allegation/concerns that do not meet the harms threshold are referred to as 'low-level concerns'. A low-level concern does not mean it is insignificant, rather that the behaviour towards the child does not meet the harm threshold as outlined above.

A low-level concern is any concern, no matter how small, that an adult working in or on behalf of the academy may have acted in a way that is:

- Inconsistent with the staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy, including inappropriate conduct outside of work, or
- Does not meet the harm threshold or is not serious enough to consider a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum. Further information about distinguishing expected and appropriate behaviour from concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be found in the academy staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy.

Staff should share low-level concerns in confidence with the Principal.

Low-level concerns about the Principal should be reported to the Chair of Governors via their Aston trust email address.

Staff are also encouraged to self-refer where 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 a way that they consider falls below the expected professional standards.

The Principal will be the decision maker in respect of all low-level concerns; however, this may be undertaken in collaboration with the Designated Safeguarding lead. Please see Appendix 4 for the academy procedure.

Reports about supply staff or contractors will be notified to their employers.

All low-level concerns will be recorded in writing to include details of the concern, the context and the action taken. For further information about the procedure for recording and responding to low-level concerns see academy staff behaviour (code of conduct) policy.

Concerns about safeguarding practices within the academy

All staff are encouraged to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the academy safeguarding regime. These concerns will be taken seriously by the senior leadership team.

For information about how to raise concerns with the senior leadership team or other channels see the Trust's Whistleblowing policy.

Education settings must ensure that volunteers, staff, and governors are able to record concerns about:

- The welfare of a child or young person; and
- The behaviour of a volunteer, member of staff, governor or person connected with the academy

The following headings illustrate the minimum information that should be included in the local arrangements that is agreed within the individual education setting.

Principles

A statement should be included on the form used in the setting that confirms:

"Any member of the staff, including volunteers, must record any concerns about a child or young person. This form must be completed as soon as possible after the discovery of the concern. If the concern is about:

- *The welfare of a child it must be sent to the designated safeguarding lead*
- *The behaviour of any member of staff it must be sent immediately to the principal, or the chair of governors if the allegation is against the principal. If there is a conflict of interests in reporting to the principal, this must be sent to the trust's Chief Safeguarding Office, the CEO or the LADO.;*

If the concerns are immediate, please inform an appropriate person straight away."

Concerns about a child or young person

Child's full name:		Date of birth:	
		Class/year/form:	
Concern identified by:		Role:	
Date of concern:		Time of concern:	
Witness/es:		Place of incident:	
Name of alleged person (s) responsible for the harm/potential harm:			
Not known		Volunteer	
Learner in this academy		Member of staff	
Learner in another academy, please specify		Governor/trustee	
Family member		Other, please specify	

Concern/Incident/Disclosure: Why are you concerned about this child? What have you observed and when? What have you been told and when?

Please provide a description of any incident/s or anything you see or have been told by a child, or another person. Record any visible injuries or ask the child/young person to point to where else it is sore/hurts. Do not remove or lift clothing for the purpose of the examination unless the injury site is freely available because of treatment or take photos of injuries. If photos of injuries are required for evidence purposes, then this should be done by the police.

Remember to make clear what is fact and what is hearsay/opinion. Note the language and terminology used by the child, or adult, and be clear about who has said what.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

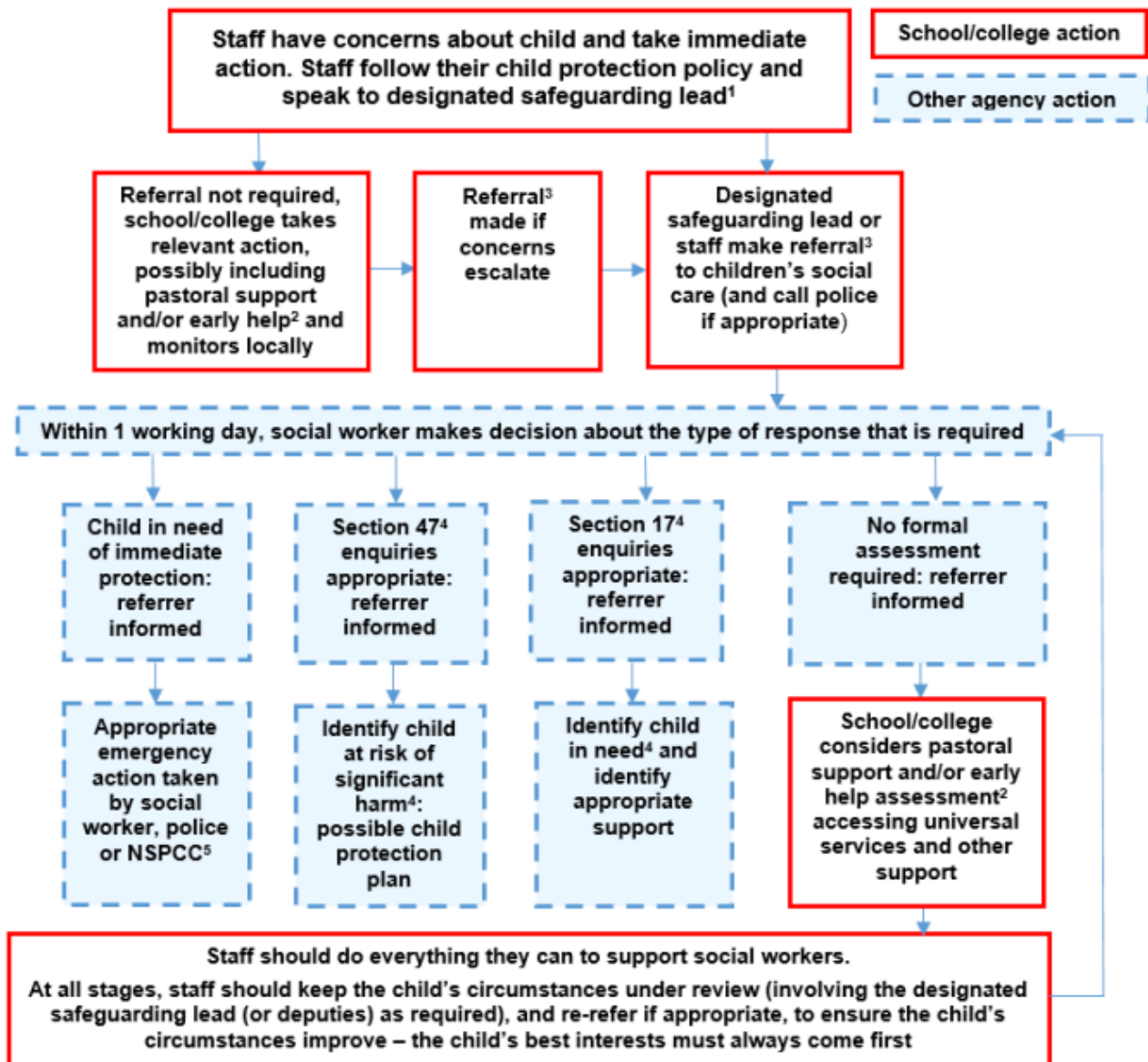
Has any action already been taken in relation to this concern?

For example, child taken out of class, first aid

Name of person concerns reported to	Date

Action to be taken / recommendations from Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name of person completing form	Signature	Date and time



¹ In cases which also involve a concern or an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part four of this guidance.

² Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) provides detailed guidance on the early help process.

³ Referrals should follow the process set out in the local threshold document and local protocol for assessment. Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

⁴ Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare. Full details are in Chapter one of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

⁵ This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).

1. Remember that the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing, but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice from other practitioners, or your information governance lead, if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
5. Consider safety and well-being: base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

Taken from [Information Sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers \(2018\)](#) HM Government

Shirebrook Academy Guidance for Dealing with Low Level Concerns

Introduction

This guidance is set out to deal with low level concerns relating to members of staff, supply teachers, volunteers, external visitors and contractors which do not meet the harm threshold in Part 4 of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Concerns may arise through:

- Complaint
- Suspicion
- Disclosure – made by a child or other adult within or outside of the academy
- Pre- employment vetting checks

It is imperative that low level concerns are responded to and dealt with swiftly to safeguard children within our care.

Definition of a Low-Level Concern

The term 'Low Level Concern' is any concern, no matter how small – that an adult working in or on behalf of the academy may have acted in a way that:

- Is inconsistent with the Staff Code of Conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of the work place **and** does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO

Examples of such behaviour could include but are not limited to:

- Being overly friendly with children
- Having 'favourites'
- Taking photographs of children on their personal mobile phone
- Engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door
- Using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language

Sharing low level concerns

In line with our statutory obligations in keeping children safe, we recognise the importance of creating a culture of openness, transparency and trust so that all staff are encouraged to share low level concerns so that they can be addressed swiftly and effectively.

We will create this culture by:

- Having clear policies and procedures
- Empowering staff to share any low-level concerns
- Ensuring all staff are clear about what constitutes appropriate behaviour and that they are confident in distinguishing between appropriate and expected behaviour from concerning problematic or inappropriate behaviour
- Empowering staff to self-refer
- Addressing unprofessional behaviour and supporting staff to correct it at a very early stage
- Providing a sensitive, responsive and proportionate handling of any concerns raised.

Reporting framework for Low Level Concerns

Low level concerns about a member of staff should be reported to the Principal. If the concern is in relation to the Principal, then this matter should be reported to the Chair of Governors and the CEO. Low level concerns regarding Supply staff, contractors or external visitors to the academy should be reported to their employers.

Responding to a Low-Level Concern

In the event that the concern is raised via a third party, the Principal will collect evidence where necessary by speaking to the person who raised the concern, unless it has been raised anonymously, the individual involved and any potential witnesses.

Once this information has been gathered, the Principal will use the information to determine potential next steps in line with the trust's Staff Code of Conduct. If allegations meet the harm threshold, the case will be immediately referred to the LADO and we will work collaboratively on any joint investigation. The LADO will also be contacted for advice, if the Principal feels that additional guidance is required for concerns raised. Low Level Concerns which the Principal and HR feel can be dealt with internally will be dealt with via the investigation process which could potentially lead to disciplinary action.

Record Keeping and Reviewing a Low-Level Concern

To report a Low-level concern , the pro forma attached must be completed.

Records will be kept confidential and held securely in accordance with the Trust's Data Protection Policy. The records will be reviewed regularly in order to establish if any potential patterns have emerged. Where a pattern of repeat behaviour is identified, the Principal in liaison with HR, will decide on an appropriate course of action. This may result in the Disciplinary process being followed or if the behaviour moves from being a concern to meeting harm threshold, we will refer it to the LADO in line with the Trust's Safeguarding Policy. If the concerns raised are in relation to a supply teacher, contractor or external visitor, we will notify the individual's employer so that they can assess if there are any patterns of behaviour with their employee and take the necessary appropriate action. If the concern relates to a volunteer, the Principal will seek advice from the Trust Safeguarding Lead and the LADO.

Employment references

We will not routinely include Low level concerns in references unless the concern(s) has met threshold for referral to the LADO or relates to issues which would ordinarily be included in an employment reference, for example, any disciplinary sanction which has not yet been spent.

LOW LEVEL CONCERN REPORTING PROFORMA

Guidance

Please use this pro forma to share any concern, no matter how small you consider it to be. You should provide a concise record and include the circumstances and context in which the Low-Level Concern arose. The record should be accurate and all dates provided. You should also sign and date the record and return to the Principal as soon as possible.

Details of Concern:

Name of staff member/Supply staff/Contractor/volunteer:

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