Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

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Details of Policy Updates

Date	Review	Who is Responsible?
September 2022	Updated in line with KCSIE 2022	DSL
September 2023	Updated in line with KCSIE 2023	DSL
September 2024	Updated in line with KCSIE 2024 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023	DSL
September 2025	Updated in line with KCSIE 2025 and BCC guidance	DSL

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Key safeguarding personnel

- **Jenny Knight:** Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Tim Browse:** Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Philippa Cooke:** Link Governor
- **Martin Seasman/Tara Conolly Hill:** Chair of Governors
- **Lucy Hennessy:** SENDCo

PART 1: Policy

1.1 Definitions

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- 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
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child Protection is defined in the Children Act 1989 (s.47) as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Under statutory guidance and legislation, action must be taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

1.2 Introduction

At Air Balloon Hill Primary School

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children, their families and carers, has a role to play.
- In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should always consider what is in the **best interests** of the child.
- We take an '**it can happen here**' approach where safeguarding is concerned.
- **Everyone** who comes into contact with children has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
- Victims of harm should **never** be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by:

- The provision of a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Acting on concerns about a child's welfare immediately.
- Fulfilling our legal responsibilities to identify children who may need early help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

All action taken by Air Balloon Hill Primary School will be in accordance with:

- **Current legislation** (this is summarised within Working Together to Safeguard Children: statutory framework)

- **Statutory, national, and local guidance – this includes:**
    - **Working Together to Safeguard Children**, which sets out the multiagency working arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm; in addition, it sets out the statutory roles and responsibilities of schools.
    - **Keeping Children Safe in Education** is statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education which all schools and colleges must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
    - **Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework.** Statutory Framework is statutory guidance which sets standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to 5.
- **Local Guidance from the Local Safeguarding Partnership:** around particular safeguarding topics are available on the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Website.

  Government guidance in relation to: Specific topical safeguarding issues – a collection of up-to-date guidance can be found on the Safeguarding in Education Team's guidance page. https://www.bristolsafeguardingineducation.org/guidance/

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Recruitment and Selection
- Whistleblowing
- Code of Conduct for Staff
- Low Level Concerns
- Behaviour
- Suspension and Exclusion
- Anti-bullying
- Online Safety and Social Media
- Pupil and Staff Electronic Devices
- Children in Care
- Attendance
- Health and Safety
- UK GDPR

Staff should also read the Air Balloon Staff Handbook for further information. The Head teacher will ensure that the above policies and procedures, adopted by the governing body, are accessible, understood and followed by all staff.

1.3 Equalities and Rights Statement

With regards to safeguarding we will consider our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and our general and specific duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty. General duties include:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

3. Foster good relations across all protected characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Details of our specific duties are published under Air Balloon Hill Primary School's equality statement and measurable objectives. These are available on our website

We adhere to both the Bristol Equality Charter and Bristol Children's Charter with a view to contribute towards the One City Plan.

Staff are aware of the additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This will be in line with our Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy, which can be found on our website.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School also adheres to the principals of and promotes anti-oppressive practice in line of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Act 1998.

1.4 Overall Aims

This policy will contribute to the safeguarding of children at **Air Balloon Hill Primary School** by:

- Clarifying safeguarding expectations for members of the education setting's community, staff, governing body, learners, and their families.
- Contributing to the establishment of a safe, resilient, and robust safeguarding culture in the setting built on shared values; that learners are treated with respect and dignity, taught to treat each other and staff with respect, feel safe, have a voice and are listened to.
- Supporting contextual safeguarding practice recognising that the setting's site can be a location where harm can occur.
- Setting expectations for developing knowledge and skills within the setting's community (staff, learners, parents/carers) to the signs and indicators of safeguarding issues and how to respond to them.
- Early identification of need for vulnerable learners and provision of proportionate interventions to promote their welfare and safety.
- Working in partnership with learners, parents, and other agencies in the Local Safeguarding Partnership.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is named as a relevant agency in the Local Safeguarding Partnership (Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership). This policy sets out its statutory duty to co-operate, follow and comply with published arrangements as set out by the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership.

1.5 Professional expectations, roles, and responsibilities

1.5.1 Role of all staff

- All staff will read and understand Part 1 of statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024). Those working directly with children will also read

Annex B. Those who do not work directly with children will have the option of reading Annex A instead.

- In addition to this all staff will be aware of the systems in place which support safeguarding including reading this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; the Behaviour Policy; Staff Code of Conduct; safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Know who and how to contact the DSL and Deputy DSL, the safeguarding team, the Chair of Governors, and the Governor responsible for safeguarding.
- All staff will be able to identify vulnerable learners and take action to keep them safe. Information or concerns about learners will be shared with the DSL where it includes those:
    - who may need a social worker and may be experiencing abuse or neglect
    - requiring mental health support
    - who may benefit from early help
    - where there is a radicalisation concern
    - where a crime may have been committed
- Be clear as to the setting's policy and procedures about child-on-child abuse, children missing education and those requiring mental health support, and the impact of technology in relation to online safety.
- Be involved where appropriate, in the implementation of individual plans to further safeguard vulnerable learners and understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.
- Record concerns appropriately and in a timely manner by using the setting's safeguarding systems.
- To be aware of the need to raise to the senior leadership team any concerns they have about safeguarding practices within the setting.

1.5.2 - Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Duties are further outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023, Annex C)

Details of our DSL and Deputy DSL are available on the Air Balloon Hill Primary School website, our newsletter at the start of the year or on the safeguarding notice boards (reception area and staff rooms).

- The DSL is a senior member of staff who undertakes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within the setting. This responsibility is explicit in the role holder's job description.
- The DSL works with the headteacher, and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that learners in need are experiencing or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on learner's attendance, engagement and achievement at school.
- Activities include the management of work undertaken by the Deputy DSL and Safeguarding Team.
- Manage early identification of vulnerability of learners and their families from staff through cause for concerns or notifications. This will ensure detailed, accurate,

secure written records of concerns and referrals and the rationale for any decisions made are maintained.

- Manage referrals to the local safeguarding partners where learners with additional needs have been identified. These can include those –
    - who may need a social worker and may be experiencing abuse or neglect or exploitation
    - requiring mental health support
    - who may benefit from early help
    - where there is a radicalisation concern
    - where a crime may have been committed

The DSL will also:

- Work with others – acting as a point of contact for outside agencies about safeguarding.
- Support and advise other staff in making referrals to other agencies.
- When required, liaise with the case manager and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in relation to child protection cases which concern a staff member.
- Coordinate safeguarding training and raise awareness and understanding to the settings community around policies and practice in relation to safeguarding.
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing information about vulnerable learners with relevant staff. This includes ensuring that staff:
    - know who these children are,
    - understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.
    - Are supported to identify the challenges that children in this group might face.
    - Provide additional academic support or make reasonable adjustments to help children who have **or have had** a social worker to reach their potential.
- Ensure the successful transfer of the Safeguarding/Child Protection file when a learner moves on to a new setting within 5 days for in year transfer or the first 5 days of the start of a new term.
- Ensure appropriate safeguarding cover and availability during term time/ any out of hours/out of term activities managed by the setting.
- DSLs will inform the headteacher/principal of enquiries under s.47 of the Children Act 1989 and any police investigations. This includes the need to be aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult. Further information can be found in the Statutory guidance - PACE Code C 2019.

1.5.3 - Role of the Safeguarding Team (SGT)

The school's Safeguarding Team (SGT) share responsibility for keeping children safe in school. The members of the SGT include:

- DSL
- DDSL
- SENCo
- Family Support Worker
- Children's Support Worker

The broad areas of responsibility for the SGT are:

- To regularly review all safeguarding concerns logged by members of staff and assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and swiftness of staff responses.
- To put in place support for children who are at risk of coming to harm.
- To discuss the ongoing risk and safety plans for children subject to a child protection plan.
- To complete safeguarding audits – as directed by the local authority or safeguarding board – and to use these to inform whole school actions that will strengthen the school's capacity to safeguard its children.
- To coordinate staff training based on analysis of school trends and safeguarding data.
- To put in place a timetable of whole school events that raise awareness of significant safeguarding issues.

1.5.4 - Role of the Governing Body

Duties are further outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 2)

- The governing body will ensure that all governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in the setting are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole setting approach to safeguarding. This training will be regularly updated.
- The appointed Safeguarding Governor will liaise with the DSL to ensure that the annual report for governors and the mandatory S.175 (bi-annual safeguarding) audit for the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership are completed.
- Ensure that the setting remedies any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to its attention without delay.
- Ensure that this document is updated annually (or when there are significant updates).
- Ensure that the DSL is an appropriate senior member of setting's senior leadership team and ensure that they have adequate time, funding, training, resources, and support to carry out their role effectively.
- Ensure that the training and learning for the settings community is robust and effective.
- Ensure that learners are taught about safeguarding on the curriculum including online safety in compliance with statutory guidance Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Ensure they review the Department for Education filtering and monitoring standards and make sure the setting is compliant with the requirements to meet these duties through discussions with IT staff and service providers.
- To ensure that teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers, and contractors have appropriate checks carried out in line with statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe In Education (Part 3).
- Ensure that there are procedures in place to manage safeguarding concerns or allegations against teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers, and contractors who may not be suitable to work with or pose a risk to learners, this includes having a process to manage low level concerns.

- Ensure that systems are in place for learners to effectively share a concern about a safeguarding issue they are experiencing, express their views and give feedback.
- Ensure that the setting has systems in place to prevent, identify and respond to child-on-child harm (including sexual abuse and sexual harassment) and mental health concerns, and review the effectiveness of the setting's online safety practices.
- Appoint a Designated Teacher to promote the educational achievement for children in care and other care arrangements.

1.6 Safeguarding training for staff

1.6.1 - All staff:

- The Governing body will ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) training at induction.
- Will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) refresher training at least on annually (via formal training, email e-bulletins and staff meetings).
- All staff must complete FGM awareness training and will understand their legal duty under the Mandatory Reporting Duty.
- All staff must complete PREVENT awareness training. This is to ensure that they can comply with the legal expectations under the PREVENT duty.
- Staff training includes clear reference to internal whistleblowing policy, the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer and guidance for escalating concerns.

Details on the school processes for safeguarding can be found in the appendix. The school uses CPOMS to record and monitor all causes for concerns. The process for recording concerns and subsequent actions can be found in the appendix.

1.6.2 - Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy DSL

- Will undergo formal training to provide them with the knowledge and skills (including online safety, which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) training required to carry out the role. The training will be updated at least every two years.
- Deputies will be trained to the same level as the DSL.
- The DSL and any deputies will liaise with the Local Safeguarding Partnership to ensure that their knowledge and skills are updated via e-bulletins, attend DSL network meetings, and take time to read and digest safeguarding bulletins.

1.6.3 - Other training considerations:

- The governing body will ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel will have undertaken safer recruitment training, in line with School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009.
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team will make themselves aware of and understand their role within the local safeguarding arrangements. This will ensure that those who have responsibility for the management of behaviour, inclusion, Special Educational Needs, attendance, and exclusions will carry out their duties with a safeguarding consideration.

- The Designated Teacher for Children in Care (Assistant Head for Inclusion) will undergo appropriate training to fulfil their role to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are in care.
- The mental health lead (Assistant Head Pastoral/Safeguarding) has access to appropriate training.
- Training around safeguarding topics in Annex B (including online safety, which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) will be integrated, aligned, and considered as part of a whole setting safeguarding approach.
- Appropriate colleagues have received appropriate training in relation to use of reasonable force and positive handling.

1.7 Safeguarding in the curriculum

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is dedicated to ensuring that learners are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. We recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all learners, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable learners, victims of abuse and some SEND children might be needed. This is part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

This includes:

- Working within statutory guidance in respect to Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk); and Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, to explore key areas such as self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, power, building resilience to radicalisation, e-safety and bullying.
- Appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to ensure that 'over-blocking' does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what learners can be taught about online teaching and safeguarding.
- The curriculum will be shaped to respond to safeguarding incident patterns in the setting identified by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and safeguarding team (e.g., to respond to an increase in bullying incidents).
- Providing engagement opportunities with parents and carers to consult on key aspects of the curriculum.
- Learners can inform the curriculum via discussions with Pupil Guardians.

1.8 Safer recruitment and safer working practice

1.8.1 - Safer recruitment

Air Balloon Hill Primary School pays full regard to the safer recruitment practices detailed in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (Part 3)

- This includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history, and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. References are always obtained, scrutinised and concerns resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.

- It also includes undertaking appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), the barred list checks and prohibition checks (and overseas checks if appropriate), dependent on the role and duties performed, including regulated and non-regulated activity.
- In addition, as part of the shortlisting process, the DSL will carry out an online safety search as part of their due diligence on the shortlisted candidates. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have happened, and are publicly available online, which the setting might want to explore with the applicant at interview.
- All recruitment materials will include reference to Air Balloon Hill Primary School's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of learners.

1.8.2 - Use of reasonable force

'Reasonable force' refers to the physical contact to restrain and control children using no more force than is needed.' The use of reasonable force is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and will be determined by individual circumstances and the vulnerability of any child with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) will be considered.

- The use of reasonable force will be minimised through positive and proactive behaviour support and de-escalation and will follow government guidance (Use of Reasonable Force in Schools 2013; Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention, 2019).
- There is robust recording of any incident where positive handling or restraint has been used. Further review of the incident is carried out to reflect on how the incident could be avoided, this will involve the child and their family.

The process around how the setting manages concerns where a professional may pose a risk to learners and our response to low level concerns can be accessed in section 2.8 Allegations of abuse made against professionals.

1.8.3 - Whistleblowing procedures

Staff are aware of the following whistleblowing channels for situations where they feel unable to raise an issue with the senior leadership team or feel that their genuine concerns are not being addressed:

- General guidance can be found at: Advice on whistleblowing https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing.
- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available here for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk.
- The above channels are clearly accessible to all staff (in the staff code of conduct).

1.9 Key safeguarding areas

These topics are themes that can impact on children and families, there are specific areas of safeguarding that the setting has statutory responsibilities to address which are hyperlinked:

- Children in the court system 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 affected by parental offending/imprisonment.
- Children missing from education – including persistent absence.
- Child Exploitation (including both Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation and county lines, modern day slavery and trafficking)
- Cybercrime
- Domestic Abuse
- Homelessness
- So-called Honour based Abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage),
- Online Safety
- Mental health
- Child-on-child harm:
  - Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).
  - Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (also 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 (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery).
  - Upskirting, 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; and
  - Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).
- Preventing Radicalisation (The Prevent Duty)
- Serious Youth Violence
- Substance Misuse
- Private Fostering

- Young Carers
- Forced Migration

Additional information about key safeguarding areas can also be found in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Annex B); the NSPCC website - Types of Abuse;
And for localised resources for education settings The Bristol Safeguarding in Education website.

PART 2: Procedures

2.1 Reporting concerns

All staff are clear about recording and reporting concerns to the DSL/DDSL/SGT in a timely way. In the case a learner is in immediate danger, staff should phone the police.

All staff are aware of and follow the procedures to respond to a concern about a child detailed in Appendix B. This includes responses to child-on-child harm and learners who present with a mental health need. At Air Balloon Hill Primary School, staff can raise their concerns via CPOMS. Staff and volunteers who do not have access to CPOMS use a concern form, which is available in the reception area.

Pupils can also raise their concerns by either speaking to a member of the Safeguarding Team (SGT) or recording their concerns on a slip and posting it into the worry box, which is located near the reception area. The SGT are introduced in a whole school assembly at the start of the year and this is recapped during the school's 'Safe, Kind and Respectful' Weeks throughout the year. Photographs of the SGT are also on the school's safeguarding display in the reception area.

Record-keeping

All safeguarding concerns, and subsequent actions, must be recorded in writing in line with the school procedures for recording causes for concern.

Non-confidential records will be easily accessible and available. Confidential information and records will be held securely and only available to those who have a right or professional need to see them. Safeguarding records relating to individual children will be retained for a reasonable period of time after they have left the school.

Safeguarding records relating to members of staff, including any investigation reports, will be treated as confidential items and held securely by the Headteacher. Such records will be retained for a reasonable period of time including if the member of staff has left the school. The Headteacher and/or DSL has the right and responsibility to pass on relevant safeguarding information about members of staff to any future employer. Advice from the LADO should be sought if further clarification is needed.

If a child for whom the school has, or has had, safeguarding concerns moves to another school, the DSL will ensure that their child protection file is forwarded promptly and securely, and separately from the main pupil file. In addition, if the concerns are significant or complex, and/or social services are involved, the DSL will speak to the DSL of the receiving school and provide information to enable them to have time to make any necessary preparations to ensure the safety of the child.

When possible, all records will be stored digitally including scanned copies of originals. In such cases it may be appropriate for paper copies to be disposed of in line with the school's compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If it is not possible to create electronic copies of original documentation, paper copies will be held securely in school in line with the school's compliance with GDPR.

2.2 Information Sharing

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is committed to have due regard to relevant data protection principles which allow for sharing (and withholding) personal information as provided for in the Data protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations. This includes how to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal and should be treated as 'special category personal data'.

Staff at the setting are aware that:

- 'Safeguarding' and 'individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data.
- Practitioners will seek consent to share data where possible in line with Information Sharing for Safeguarding Practitioners 2024.
- It is recommended that staff should read the Department for Education Data Protection Guidance for Schools.

There may be times when it is necessary to share information without consent such as:

- To gain consent would place the child at risk,
- by doing so will compromise a criminal investigation,
- It cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent,
- or, if by sharing information it will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner, but it is not possible to gain consent.

There are also times when Air Balloon Hill Primary School will not provide pupil's personal data where the serious harm test under legislation is met, (by sharing the information the child may be at further risk). When in doubt Air Balloon Hill Primary School will seek legal advice.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable learners.

The DSL and Deputy DSL will regularly review and monitor those students who have been identified as vulnerable. This can include reviewing attendance data, behaviour data, attainment data and safeguarding records. This is to ensure that:

- Proportionate and early interventions can be taken to promote the safety and welfare of the child and prevent escalation of harm.
- Information about vulnerable learners is shared with teachers and the settings leadership staff to promote educational outcomes.
- Learners who currently have, or have had, a social worker will have their academic progress and attainment reviewed and additional academic support will be provided to help them reach their full potential.
- Reasonable adjustments are made in relation to setting-based interventions – for example responding to behaviour.

- Air Balloon Hill Primary School can support learners who may have intersecting protected characteristics. Air Balloon Hill Primary School recognises those with protected characteristics are likely to be more vulnerable to negative experiences of discrimination both explicitly and or systemically.
- Air Balloon Hill Primary School will work in the **best interests of the child** in compliance with their equality and human rights legal duties.

2.4 Multi-agency working

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is a relevant agency in the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership and will work together with appropriate agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children including identifying and responding to their needs. This is in compliance with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children .

Occasions that warrant a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989:

- If the child is in need under s.17 of the Children Act 1989 (including when a child is a young carer and or subject to a private fostering arrangement).
- Or if the child needs protection under s.47 of the Children Act 1989 where they are experiencing significant harm, or likely to experience significant harm.

Referrals in these cases should be made by the DSL (or Deputy DSL) to Children's Social Care in the local authority in which that child resides. The list of safeguarding contact and other key agencies are listed in Appendix B.

Where the child already has a social worker, the request for service should go immediately to the social worker involved or, in their absence, to their team manager. If the child is a child in care, notification should also be made to the Hope Virtual School.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will co-operate with any statutory safeguarding assessments conducted by children's social care: this includes ensuring representation at appropriate inter-agency meetings such as integrated support plan meetings initial and review child protection conferences and core group meetings.

2.4.1 Additional considerations:

- Where a learner and/or their family is subject to an inter-agency child protection plan or a multiagency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meeting, the setting will contribute to the preparation, implementation, and review of the plan as appropriate.
- In situations where a child in care may be put on a part time timetable, the setting will consult with the Hope Virtual School following local procedures. Attendance and exclusions of children in care
- If a crime has been suspected or committed that involved the bringing of an offensive weapon on to the settings site, the setting will liaise with the Local Authority Violence Reduction Unit (Safer Options) who will consider a proportionate response.
- If there is an immediate risk of harm, the police should be called via 999. For other concerns of criminality, the non-statutory guidance 'When to Call the Police' from the NPCC. If non urgent you should report a crime via 101.

- In the rare event that a child death occurs, or a child is seriously harmed, Air Balloon Hill Primary School will notify the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership as soon as is reasonably possible.

2.5 Suspensions, permanent exclusions, and commissioning of Alternative Provisions - (To be read in conjunction with the Behaviour and Suspension and Exclusion Policies)

When the setting is considering suspending or permanently excluding a learner where additional vulnerability is identified it is important that the learner's welfare is a paramount consideration. The head teacher will consider their legal duty of care when sending a learner home and should be alert to the need for early help for a child who:

• is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care

• has experienced multiple suspensions, is at risk of being permanently excluded from school or college or is in alternative provision or a pupil referral unit

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will exercise their legal duties in relation to their interventions. This includes:

- whether a statutory assessment should be considered in line with the principles of Children Act 1989,
- that decisions are made in an anti-discriminatory manner in line with the Equality Act 2010 (including having regard to the SEND Code of Practice)
- and takes into consideration the learner's rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.
- Interventions will be consistent with statutory guidance Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement

2.5.1 - Actions to take

- An assessment of need should be undertaken with multi-agency partners with a view to mitigate any identified risk of harm this in line with 2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable learners.
- If the child is subject to a child protection plan or where there is an existing child protection file, we will call a multiagency risk-assessment meeting prior to making the decision to exclude.
- In the event of a one-off serious incident resulting in an immediate decision to exclude, the risk assessment *must* be completed prior to convening a meeting of the governing body.

2.5.2 - Commissioning Alternative Provisions

In the event where Air Balloon Hill Primary School commissions an Alternative Provision, the local Alternative Learning Provision process will apply and guidance followed to ensure clear agreement of roles and responsibilities to maintain safeguarding arrangements for learners who are not taught on site. The Department of Education has issued two pieces of statutory guidance to which the setting must also have regard to when commissioning a provision:

• Alternative Provision

• Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will continue to be responsible for the safeguarding of the child and will make necessary checks on the provider to meet the needs of the child. Reviews will be undertaken regularly to provide assurance that any child in the provision is regularly attending and that the placement continues to be safe and meets the child's need. Written confirmation from the alternative provider will be obtained of the checks on staff that we would otherwise perform for our own staff.

2.6 Children Missing from Education (To be read in conjunction with the Attendance Policy)

A learner missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect or exploitation, or maybe an indicator of need for early help support. Staff should follow procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. These should be reported to the DSL and reviewed in line with 2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable learners.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will follow the guidance detailed in Children Missing Education (2016) and Bristol City Council Education Welfare Service – Children Missing Education

This will include notifying the local authority in which the child lives:

- of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly,
- or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the local authority.

2.6.1 - Elective Home Education

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will notify the Local Authority of every learner where a parent has exercised their right to educate their child at home. Safeguarding files should be shared with the Local Authority Elective Home Education service and consideration of whether additional support from children's social care should be made in line with the Children Act 1989.

2.7 Respond to incidents of child-on-child harm.

(There is flow diagram in Appendix B that illustrates this section)

All staff should recognise that children can harm other children (including online). It is important that incidents of abuse and harm are treated under safeguarding policy in conjunction with the behaviour policy. However, concerns regarding the welfare of learners requires process and records to be kept on the child's safeguarding/child protection file.

Further examples of child-on-child harm this can be found under section 1.9 Key Safeguarding Areas. It is recognised that child-on-child harm can happen inside and outside of setting or online.

At Air Balloon Hill Primary School

- Abuse will never be tolerated and incidents are taken seriously. These will never be passed off as 'banter,' just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up.' Banter and teasing can and should be acknowledged and recognised as bullying behaviour and may require proportionate intervention.
- We take steps to educate and act and ensure to mitigate the risk of contributing to a culture of unacceptable behaviours or a culture that normalises abuse.
- It is understood that child-on-child harm may reflect equality issues in terms of those who may be targeted are more likely to have protected characteristics.
- Early identification of vulnerability to child-on-child harm is made by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment, and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.

There are clear systems in place (which are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible) for learners to confidently report abuse knowing their concerns will be treated easily as reflected in section 2.1 Reporting a concern of this policy. Air Balloon Hill Primary School will handle initial reports of harm by:

- Securing the immediate safety of learners involved in an incident and sourcing support for other young people affected.
- Listening carefully to the child, being non-judgmental, being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed, not asking leading questions and only prompting the child where necessary with open questions – where, when, what, etc.
- Ensuring that victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting **any** form of abuse or neglect, or exploitation. They will never be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.
- It is also important that staff determine how best to build trusted relationships with children which facilitates communication.
- Ensuring the child's wishes are taken into consideration in any intervention and any action is taken to ensure safety of the target and other members of the child' cohort or the settings community.
- Not promising confidentiality as it is highly likely that information will need to be shared with other professionals.

2.7.1 Actions to take in relation to sexual violence and sexual harassment.

Reference to Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 5) should be made in relation to taking protective action. Air Balloon Hill Primary School will take the following actions when responding to incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment:

- Incidents will be reported immediately to the DSL/ Deputy DSL who will undertake further assessment of what action should be taken proportionate to the factors that have been identified. Following training The Brook - Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Assessment Tool should be utilised to inform assessment of risk and what actions to subsequently take. This may include seeking specialist advice and guidance from Be Safe.

- DSLs/DDSL will take **proportionate** action and consider whether a case can be managed internally, through early help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with the section 2.4 - Multi-Agency Working section.
- When an incident involves an act of **sexual violence** (rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault) the starting point is that this must be reported to the police immediately **regardless** of the age of criminal responsibility (10 years old). This must be reported directly via 101 for recording purposes and accountability. This is on the understanding that the police will take a welfarist approach rather than a criminal justice one. A concurrent referral to social care must also be made for **all children directly involved**. A strategy can be requested where education can voice explicitly concerns of criminalisation in a multi-agency context.
- When the children involved require a statutory assessment either under s.17 or s. 47 of the Children Act 1989 a referral to social care should be undertaken.
- Where the report includes an online element, the setting will follow Searching, screening and confiscation at school 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). The key consideration is for staff not to view or forward illegal images of a child. The highlighted advice provides more details on what to do when viewing an image is unavoidable.
- Risk assessments and or safety plans will be developed for individual children who have been involved in an incident. This should be reviewed at least every 3 months or every time there is an occurrence of an incident. These should involve the child and parents/carers and address contextual risks.

2.7.2 - Contextual safeguarding approach to child-on-child harm:

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will minimise the risk of child-on-child harm by taking a contextual approach to safeguarding by increasing safety in the contexts of which harm can occur – this can include the settings environment itself, peer groups and the neighbourhood.

Following any incidents of child-on-child harm, the DSL/DDSL will review and consider whether any practice or environmental changes can be made in relation to any lessons learned. This can include making changes to staffing and supervision, making changes to the physical environment and considering the utilisation and delivery of safeguarding topics on the curriculum.

2.8 Responding to allegations of abuse made against professionals.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School has processes and procedures in place to manage any safeguarding allegation, or concern (no matter how small), about staff members (including supply staff, volunteers, and contractors). Staff must report **any** concerns or allegations about a professional's behaviour, but more urgently where they may have:

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

2.8.1 - Immediate action that must be taken:

- **Do not** speak to the individual it concerns.
- Allegations or concerns about colleagues, supply staff, volunteers or contractors must be reported directly to the Head Teacher who will follow guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part four: Safeguarding concerns and allegations made about staff, including supply teachers, volunteers, and contractors).
- If the concern relates to Head Teacher it should be reported to the Chair of Governors, who will liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and they will decide on any action required.
- If there is a conflict of interest which inhibits this process of reporting, staff can report directly to the LADO.
- If allegations are regarding a member of supply staff, the setting will take the lead and progress enquiries with the LADO, whilst continuing to engage and work with the employment agency.
- Allegations regarding foster carers or anyone in a position of trust working or volunteering with children should be referred to the LADO on the day that the allegation is reported. The allocated social worker should also be informed on the day. The setting should not undertake any investigation unless the LADO advises this.

2.8.2 - Low level concerns

This should be read in conjunction with the staff code of conduct and Keeping children Safe in Education (Part 4). A low-level concern is not insignificant. If staff have a safeguarding concern or an allegation about another member of staff (including supply staff, volunteers, or contractors) that does not meet the harm threshold, then this should be shared in accordance with the settings low-level concerns policy.

- Reports should be made in accordance with Air Balloon Hill Primary School's own processes, using the online form as lined to in the schools' Low Level Concerns Policy.
- Air Balloon Hill Primary School creates an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation.
- The Headteacher or DSL will address unprofessional behaviour and support the individual to correct it at an early stage providing a responsive, sensitive, and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised.
- Review and correct any deficits in the setting's safeguarding system.

2.9 Mental health and wellbeing. (A flow diagram is available in Appendix B to illustrate this section)

Settings have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their learners. Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation, and or may require early help support.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will commit to undertake the following:

- The appointment of a senior mental health lead (Assistant Head Pastoral/Safeguarding), who can support the development of knowledge and act as a

point of expertise to promote the wellbeing and mental health of learners. This colleague will have sufficient training in mental health **and** safeguarding for them to carry out their role effectively.

- Early identification of vulnerability to mental health problems by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment, and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.
- Ensure that learners can report and share concerns in line with section 2.1 Reporting a concern of this policy.
- Staff will follow a safeguarding process in terms of reporting concerns outlined in Appendix B so the DSL and wider members of the safeguarding team such as the SENDCo and Children's Support Worker) can assess whether there are any other vulnerabilities can be identified and proportionate support considered.
- Staff will ensure the immediate health and safety of a learner who is displaying acute mental health distress. This may require support from emergency services via 999 if the leaner is at risk of immediate harm.
- DSL/SGT will consider whether a case can be managed internally, through early help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with section 2.4 - Multi-Agency Working.
- The setting will communicate and work with the learner and parents/carers to ensure that interventions are in the best interests of the child.
- DSL/SGT will liaise with staff to ensure reasonable adjustments are made and develop ways to support achieving positive educational outcomes.
- Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem – DSL and the senior leadership team should be able to access specialist advice through targeted services or through their locality Primary Mental Health Specialists from Child and Family Consultation Services.

2.9.1 - Contextual safeguarding approach to mental health

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will ensure that preventative measures in terms of providing safeguarding on the curriculum will provide opportunities for learners to identify when they may need help, and to develop resilience.

The setting will take a 'whole setting' approach to:

- deliver high quality teaching around mental health and wellbeing on the curriculum.
- having a culture that promotes mental health and wellbeing
- having an environment that promotes mental health and wellbeing
- making sure pupils and staff are aware of and able to access a range of mental health services
- supporting staff wellbeing
- And being committed to pupil and parent participation

2.10 Online Safety

Online safety is an integrated and interwoven theme with other safeguarding considerations. It is essential that the DSL takes a lead on ensuring that interventions are effective. This means coordinating support and engaging with other colleagues in the setting who may have more technological expertise such as the school's IT Support Service.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is committed to addressing online safety issues around content, contact, conduct and commerce. This includes:

- Ensuring that online safety is concerned in relevant policies and procedures.
- Online safety is interwoven in safeguarding training for staff and safeguarding on the curriculum for learners.
- Acknowledging that child-on-child harm can happen via mobile and smart technology between individuals and groups. This should be approached in the same process outlined in section 2.7 Responding to incidents of child-on-child harm **and read in conjunction** of Air Balloon Hill Primary School's policy on the use electronic devices, available on the website.
- Provision of education via remote learning will comply with current governmental advice Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and Providing remote education: guidance for schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- The effectiveness of the setting's ability to safeguard learners in respect to filtering and monitoring, information security and access management alongside the above will be reviewed annually in line with the digital and technology standards in schools and colleges Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Appendix A – Key Guidance for safeguarding issues.

All key education sector policies relevant for education settings can be found on the following webpage https://www.bristolsafeguardingineducation.org/guidance/

Other **multi-agency** guidance and policies from the Local Safeguarding Partnerships:

- For Bristol - https://bristolsafeguarding.org/policies-and-guidance/
- For South Glos - http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/library

Appendix B – Reporting concerns

- Reporting Concerns Flow Chart - **Bristol–** Click here
- Process flow chart responding to child-on-child incidents and Mental Health Problems **–** Click here
- Safeguarding contacts poster **–** Multi-agency contacts in Bristol**. –** Click here
- For wider local contacts use the following page - Bristol Safeguarding in Education Local Contacts List
- Neighbouring Local Authority Contacts **-** Click here

Reporting Concerns Flow Chart - Bristol

You have concerns about a child

Child Protection concern – take action now.

Go to speak with Safeguarding Lead immediately. If not available, find the deputy or you act.

Agree who will make the referral to First Response (and call the police on 101 if necessary).

Referral is made to First Response/Police, stating that it is a Child Protection concern.

Action is taken by the appropriate agencies

You will need to record on your own system in writing ASAP (within 24 hours). This applies whether or not you make the actual referral.

Your agency continues to participate in Child Protection Strategy or S.47 Enquiries.

Child is in immediate danger – phone 999

All other welfare and safeguarding concerns

Complete internal concern form and pass to Safeguarding Lead

Lead will assess (with discussion with staff and consultation of any safeguarding file held) to agree actions required.

Concern meets threshold for referral to First Response

Complete web form referral to First Response (copy of referral kept for file). **Parental consent is required.**

First Response assesses referral and threshold (may direct to First Assessment Service or MASH if further information is required) and directs to:

Families in Focus
SAF allocated and referrer informed. Your agency participates in assessment, plan and intervention.

Child in Need s17 enquiries. Allocated to Social Care Unit, referrer informed. Your agency participates in assessment, plan, and intervention.

Single or multi agency led interventions/refer direct to other agencies (e.g. Brook, counselling, etc) – this equates to early help for the child

No further action – will monitor.

Decide No Further Action (NFA) and inform your agency.

No matter what the outcome, keep monitoring, re-refer or escalate as appropriate. Participate in all assessments and plans. Chase referrals if not kept informed – this is our responsibility.

Safeguarding Response to Mental Health and Child on Child harm

All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation (KCSIE)

All staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. All staff should be clear about their settings's policy and procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse (KCSIE)

There is a concern about a learner's mental health

You are made aware of an incident or pattern of child-on-child abuse

Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. (KCSIE)

Secure the safety of the learner(s) involved and source support for any other young people affected

Record the concern/incident in line with your setting's safeguarding and child protection policy (e.g on CPOMs). The DSL and deputies are notified

The concern is reviewed by the DSL and safeguarding team. Information should be cross-referenced with attendance, behaviour records, attainment and any safeguarding and child protection concerns.

Possible examples of child-on-child harm

- **Bullying (and cyberbullying)**
- **Physical abuse**
- **Sexual violence and sexual harassment**
- **Upskirting**
- **Nudes (sexting, youth produced sexual imagery)**
- **Initiation/hazing type violence and**

Additional guidance used to respond to the concern:

- ***Mental health and behaviour in schools* (link)**
- ***Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing* (link)**

Concern and need reviewed alongside learner and family

Concern can be managed internally through setting-based early help, support and signposting.

Concern requires additional support from a targeted agency or Primary Mental Health Specialist.

Child protection concern that requires a referral to social care for an assessment under s.17 or s.47 of the Children's Act 1989. Settings may also refer directly to CAMHs.

Outcomes

Additional guidance used to respond to the concern

- ***Advice for Schools and Colleges on Responding to Sexting Incidents* (link)**
- ***Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool* (link)**
- ***Preventing and Tackling Bullying* (link)**
- ***NPCC: When to call the police* (link)**

Outcomes

Concerns managed internally through pastoral support, contextual safeguarding, restorative approaches, RSE/PSHE. Setting informs parents/carers of incident and actions.

Repeat incidents or that of moderate concern – Setting liaises with parents/carers. Consider seeking consent and advice for targeted/specialist services to support all learners involved in the incident(s).

Clear child protection concerns/criminal issue. Make a referral to social care and/or the police for consideration of a statutory assessment.

All actions, risk assessments and responses should be recorded on the Safeguarding/Child Protection file. Plans/risk assessments should be reviewed every 3 months or on any occasion another concern is raised.

Appendix C - Dealing with a disclosure of abuse, neglect or exploitation

When a child tells me about abuse, neglect or exploitation they have suffered, what must I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger, or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell them you are pleased that they are speaking to you.
- Never promise confidentiality. Assure them that you will try to help but let the child know that you may have to tell other people to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information. Use 'Tell Me, Explain to me, Describe to me' (TED) questioning.
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that they have a right to be safe and protected.
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged perpetrator.
- Be aware that the child may retract what they have told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record on CPOMS of the conversation using the child's own language. On CPOMS the child's voice should be written in CAPITALS. Stick to the facts and do not add any opinions, judgements or interpretations.
- Make sure you provide the appropriate safeguarding category with your CPOMS entry so that relevant staff are alerted.

NB It is not education staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

Appendix D - Types of abuse and neglect

Abuse and neglect are defined as the maltreatment of a child or young person whereby someone may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

All setting staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another. For children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) additional barriers can exist when identifying abuse and neglect, these include:

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

To address these additional challenges, settings should consider extra pastoral support for children with SEND.

The following are the definition of abuse and neglect as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children however, the ultimate responsibility to assess and define the type of abuse a child or young person may be subject to is that of the Police and Children's Services – our responsibility is to understand what each category of abuse is and how this can impact on the welfare and development of our children and where we have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of abuse and neglect (one or more categories can apply) to take appropriate action as early as possible.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Appendix E Specific actions to take on topical safeguarding issues

General or national guidance will not be included here. A summary of specific duties are in Keeping Children Safe in Education Annex B and Access to local guidance can be found in Appendix A of this document.

In recognition that the threshold of child protection is 'likely to suffer' significant harm, Air Balloon Hill Primary School may need to make a referral to children's social care. Where possible, this will involve notifying the parent/carer if it does not place the learner at further risk of harm. In all other circumstances information will be shared in line with section 2.2 Information Sharing.

It is also important to recognise the importance of liaising with other education settings who may have siblings attending. It is likely that they may hold additional information which will support early identification of harm and in turn develop your assessment of need.

Harm Outside the Home (HOtH) – including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), county lines, online harm, modern slavery, child on child abuse.

[Name of setting] will ensure that early help intervention is provided as soon as a concern of HOtH is identified. Consultation and advice will be sought from Local Authority and targeted services to consider the appropriate support available. The child and their families will be part of any planning and interventions.

- If there is evidence that a child is experiencing HOtH **[Name of setting]** will make a referral to First Response on 0117 903 6444.
- If there is intelligence or information which indicates that the child or group of children are at risk of or involved in criminality, **[Name of setting]** will share information with the police via 101 or online via Avon and Somerset Police's online reporting form: https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/vul This information will support proactive activity to disrupt criminal activity in relation to exploitation or harm outside the home more broadly.
- **[Name of setting]** will contact Safer Connections for inter-agency support, consultation, and advice about responding to HOtH and for guidance in implementing contextual safeguarding strategies to improve safety for vulnerable learners. saferconnections@bristol.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse

Operation Encompass is a national information sharing scheme where education settings are notified when the police are called to an incident of domestic abuse. This will enable the education setting to take proactive action and reasonable adjustments in relation to behaviour management and achieving positive educational outcomes.

Under the current information sharing protocol, the education setting **is not permitted** to share his information without seeking consent from Avon and Somerset police in case this may put a victim and learners at further risk of harm. The only exception to this when information is shared with new education setting (part of statutory duties in relation to transfer of the Safeguarding/ Child Protection file, Keeping Children Safe in Education). Additional instructions around this are sent out with every single notification.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School will follow Bristol's Local Safeguarding Partnerships procedures when receiving and managing information through Operation Encompass. Our setting will promote an open culture of safeguarding to enable learners and families to disclose and feel safe to talk about their experiences and what support may be required.

Further information can be accessed through the Bristol City Council Safeguarding in Education Team webpages Operation Encompass

Female Genital Mutilation

Mandatory reporting duty: Click here for government guidance
This is a legal duty for all professionals undertaking teaching work to report known cases of FGM to the police via 101. This is when they:

1. Are informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
2. Observe physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out

These cases must be referred to the DSL who will support them to carry out their duty. It is also advised any referrals made to the police under the mandatory reporting duty is followed up with children's social care so an assessment of need and support is concurrently considered.

Travel:
National guidance has highlighted going on holiday to a risk affected country is cause for concern, local guidance has been developed to prevent discriminatory action against families from risk affected communities.

- Families are encouraged to notify the education setting when they are looking to travel during term time dates.
- This will prompt a conversation with the DSL/ specialist trained member of staff to discuss and explain what FGM is in that; it is significantly harmful and illegal to practice this.
- The setting will complete an FGM Referral Risk assessment (available on the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website) with the family to identify any support that the family may require in relation to FGM.

- Proportionate action is taken. Referrals to social care should NOT be automatically made – however should be made if there are high risk concerns identified from the FGM Referral Risk Assessment.
- These assessments should be saved onto the child's Safeguarding/Child Protection file to avoid duplication with new incidents of travel.

Online Safety

- **Annex D of Keeping Children Safe in Education highlights additional actions schools should take to keep learners safe online.**
- For concerns around individual cases where a child has been harmed through online mediums, advice and guidance can be made through the **Professional Online Safeguarding Helpline**, T: 0344 381 4772, E: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
- Where there have been established cases of online abuse or grooming, the setting should alert - **Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (CEOPS)** - **Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (CEOP)**

Mental health – linked to section within main body of this policy

Child-on-child Abuse - linked to section within main body of this policy.

Serious Youth Violence

To be read in conjunction with the above section around Child Criminal Exploitation. There has been local guidance issued on the issue of 'Offensive Weapons in Education Settings'.

It is important to note that should a weapon be used or there is threat of use, the police should be called immediately.

- The same day a weapon is found Safer Options should be called for a multi-disciplinary assessment of risk. A Safer Connections Advisor will determine whether the young person meets the criteria for the 'Weapons in Schools Pathway' and coordinate the response with the Police and Youth Justice Service. If the criteria for a Weapons in School intervention is not met (in situations where there is evidence of threat or direct harm), a Safer Connections Advisor will support the school to take the appropriate measures for reporting and mitigating ongoing risk.
- Whilst it is acknowledged that the decision to exclude remains with the Headteacher/principal it is recommended that consultation with the Safer Options Team is made so as not to further put the child at further risk of harm if they are excluded.
- Alternatives to exclusions should be considered first in recognition that by doing so a learner it may be at further risk of harm out in the community.
- Police will be notified through the multi-agency discussion held at the 'Out of Court Disposals Panel' to prevent students unnecessarily getting a criminal record.

Preventing Radicalisation - The Prevent duty

All settings are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

The Prevent duty should be seen as part of the settings wider safeguarding obligations. Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, especially paragraphs 57-76, which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare).

The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes:

- risk assessment,
- working in partnership,
- staff training, and
- IT policies.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child:

- under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled)
- by someone other than a parent or close relative (*Close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.)
- with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

Cases of private fostering arrangements must be reported to children's social care to ensure that needs are adequately made.

Statutory guidance states that this should be done at least 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to start or as soon as you are made aware of the arrangements. Not to do so is a criminal offence.

Further support and reasonable adjustments should be made by the education setting to promote achievement of positive educational outcomes.

Young Carers

A young carer is a person under 18 who regularly provides emotional and/or practical support and assistance for a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally unwell or who misuses substances.

The setting will support learners who are young carers to appropriate support. To find out what is available locally visit the Bristol City Council Website

The Carers Support Centre can undertake an assessment of need and provide bespoke support. For further information and to make a referral visit the Carers Support Centre website.

Children from Forced Migration

Children with a forced migration background may be more vulnerable to criminal or sexual exploitation or may have been trafficked. It is important that staff understand what signs to look out for, and understand the National Referral Mechanism procedures.

There are other specific safeguarding issues relating to this group for example adultification, age assessments, No Recourse to Public Funds, and coming from countries where practices such as underage or forced marriage or FGM may be more prevalent.

The setting will support staff to develop and embed a proactive whole school anti-racist approach and adopt a trauma informed approach when supporting these children and their families.

There are a range of specialist support services available in the city that can be accessed for further information visit the Resources for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Bristol - Bristol City of Sanctuary web pages

Appendix F – The School's Safeguarding Team (SGT)

The Safeguarding Team (SGT) are there to help and support but all staff have the necessary training to respond appropriately to any concern that arises.

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Children Support Worker	Inclusion Lead	Family Support Worker
Jenny Knight	Tim Browse	Emma James	Lucy Hennessy	Sarah Webb
Lead for Safeguarding and Child Crotection across the school. Key Link for children on a CP plan and Level 3 safeguarding concerns.	Support for Safeguarding and Child Protection across the school.	First contact for children's emotional well-being concerns.	SENCO and Designated Teacher for Children in Care.	Supporting attendance, parent support and family welfare.

When alerted to concerns on CPOMS, the SGT have three responses:

Advise –support staff to take the most appropriate course of action.
Act –carry out an action to support the child/family and communicate back to the referrer.
Escalate – refer to other members of the SGT, or external agencies, in order to keep children safe.

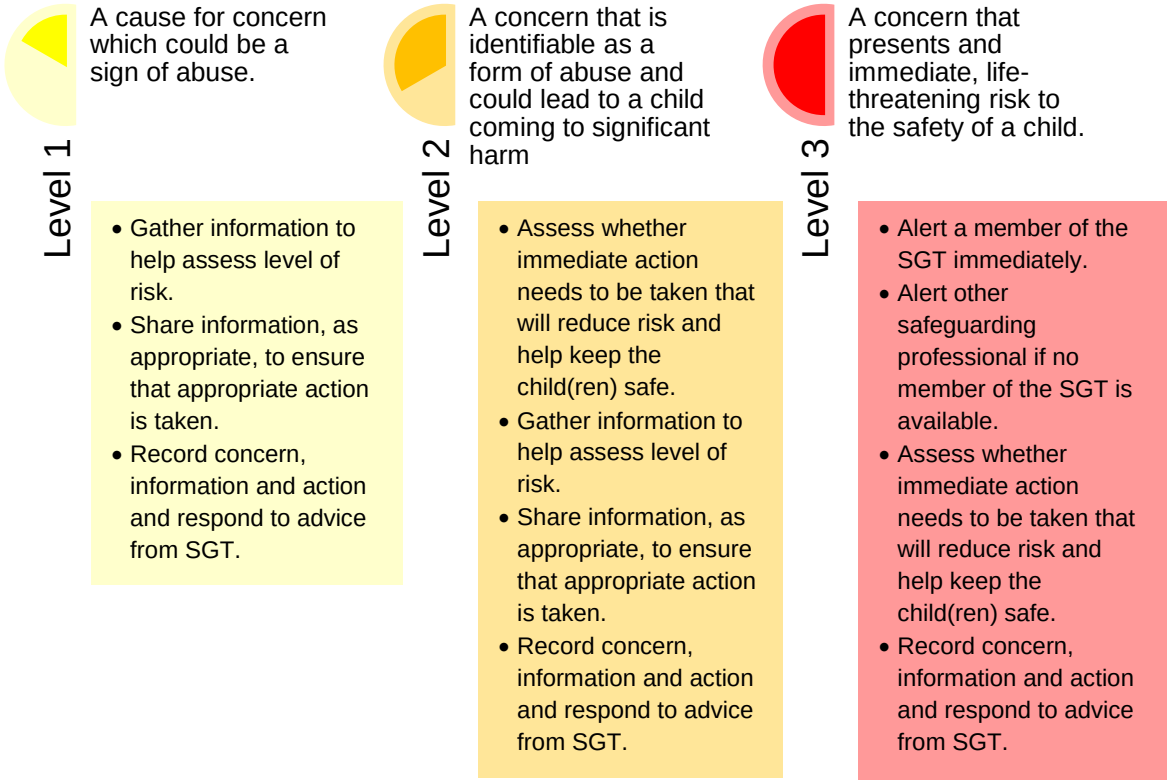
As well as carrying out day-to-day safeguarding duties, the SGT also meet weekly to discuss key children and review the last 7 days of CPOMS.

The SGT also have two meetings a term to map out the safeguarding curriculum which is covered each term by a designated safety week. During this week there will be a special assembly and some specific work/resources for all classes to access. The timetable for the safety weeks is:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 6
Being safe	Anti-bullying	E-safety	Heroes	Staying safe
Trusted adults School systems PANTS	School policy Equality Tolerance	Cyber-bullying Digital footprint Reporting	Diversity Adversity Achievement	FGM Radicalisation Life-skills

Appendix G – Recognising abuse and taking action

Every member of staff has duty to help keep children safe and should be pro-active in this endeavour. The Safeguarding Team (SGT) are there to help and support but all staff have the necessary training to respond appropriately to any concern that arises.
There are three main levels of safeguarding concerns that all staff can respond to:



Response	May include…
Gather information to help assess level of risk.	Speaking to children, parents, carers, other members of staff or safeguarding professionals. Reviewing past records/logs on CPOMS or other appropriate CP information.
Share information, as appropriate, to ensure that appropriate action is taken.	Informing other adults which may include parents*, staff members, the SGT, social workers, of the facts so that they can either offer advice or put in place actions. *Parents may not be informed if it is judged that to do so would increase risk to the child.
Assess whether immediate action needs to be taken that will reduce risk and help keep the child(ren) safe.	Making a professional judgement about whether immediate action needs to be taken. This may include contacting other professionals or putting in place measures which reduce any immediate risk to the child(ren).
Alert a member of the SGT immediately. **Alert other safeguarding professional if no member of the SGT is available.**	Speaking to a member of the SGT in person so that they can take swift and appropriate action. In some cases it will be necessary for an individual to contact external agencies (police, First Response, LADO…) themselves to ensure the safety of the child(ren).
Record concern, information and action and respond to advice from SGT.	Making sure that all relevant information and actions is recorded on CPOMS.

Anyone can make a referral to children's social care and/or the police if they believe a child is suffering, or likely to suffer from, or in immediate danger. Contact First Response on 0117 9036444

Appendix H – Monitoring and reporting

Air Balloon uses CPOMS to record and monitor all safeguarding and CP concerns. Below is an outline of the correct monitoring procedures:

	Level of concern	Category	Details of concern	Referral type	Who sees it?	What happens?
	☐**Level 1** (*A cause for concern which could be a sign of abuse.)*	☐Emotional ☐Physical ☐Sexual ☐Neglect	Facts No presumptions No interpretation No judgements DIALOGUE		The referrer Family Support Worker Pastoral Leader Inclusion Leader DSL	Nothing. Unless, other professionals judge it appropriate to: • **Advise** – enable the referrer, or another adult, to take the appropriate action. • **Act** – take responsibility for putting in place some immediate next steps. • **Escalate** – take the referral further via the SGT.
	☐**Level 2** (*A cause for concern that is identifiable as a form of abuse and could lead to a child coming to significant harm.)*	☐Emotional ☐Physical ☐Sexual ☐Neglect ☐DV ☐FGM ☐Prevent	Facts No presumptions No interpretation No judgements DIALOGUE *Updates written up by relevant adult and shared appropriately.*	☐SGT action ☐First Response referral ☐Early Help referral ☐Police ☐EWO ☐LADO ☐SEND ☐Other	The referrer Family Support Worker Pastoral Leader Children Support Worker Inclusion Leader DSL Deputy Headteacher	A member of the SGT will: • **Advise** – reassure the referrer that action is being taken. • **Act** – take responsibility for putting in place, or coordinating, some immediate next steps. • **Escalate** – take the referral further via the SGT, SLT, or external agencies. *Level 2 referrals will be discussed within a 7-day period by SGT.*
	☐**Level 3** (A cause for concern that presents an immediate and life-threatening risk to the safety of a child.)	☐Emotional ☐Physical ☐Sexual ☐Neglect ☐DV ☐FGM ☐Prevent	Facts No presumptions No interpretation No judgements DIALOGUE *Updates written up by relevant adult and shared appropriately.*	☐SGT action ☐First Response referral ☐Early Help referral ☐Police ☐EWO ☐LADO ☐SEND ☐Other	The referrer Family Support Worker Children Support Worker Inclusion Leader DSL Pastoral Leader Deputy Headteacher	The SGT will: • **Act** – take responsibility for putting in place some immediate next steps to ensure the safety of the child. • **Escalate** – take the referral further via external agencies.

In addition to safeguarding concerns, all staff should log concerns related to family support and children support:

	Type of concern	Category	Details of concern	Who sees it?	What happens?
	☐FSW	☐Attendance ☐Parents ☐Welfare ☐Other	Facts No presumptions No interpretation No judgements DIALOGUE	The referrer Family Support Worker Pastoral Leader Inclusion Leader DSL	The FSW will: • **Advise** – enable the referrer, or another adult, to take the appropriate action. • **Act** – take responsibility for putting in place some immediate next steps. • **Escalate** – take the referral further via the SGT, SLT, or external agencies.
	☐CSW	☐Anxiety ☐Depression ☐Anger ☐Self-esteem ☐Other ☐Bullying ☐Anti-bullying	Facts No presumptions No interpretation No judgements DIALOGUE	The referrer Children Support Worker Pastoral Leader Inclusion Leader DSL SLT	The CSW will: • **Advise** – enable the referrer, or another adult, to take the appropriate action. • **Act** – take responsibility for putting in place some immediate next steps. • **Escalate** – take the referral further via the SGT, SLT, or external agencies.

Appendix I – Providing a safe environment

General environment and visitors

The school will have the key members of the safeguarding team – including the name of the DSL – on display at key locations across the school. Key safeguarding messages will be displayed, as appropriate, across the school.

All visitors will be required to verify their identity to the satisfaction of staff on their arrival. If the visitor is unknown to the setting, we will check their credentials and reason for visiting before allowing them to enter the setting. Visitors should be ready to produce identification.

Visitors are expected to sign in and wear a visitor's badge.

Visitors to the school who are visiting for a professional purpose, such as educational psychologists and school improvement officers, will be asked to show photo ID and:

- Will be asked to show their DBS certificate, which will be checked alongside their photo ID; or
- The organisation sending the professional, such as the LA or educational psychology service, will provide prior written confirmation that an enhanced DBS check with barred list information has been carried out

All other visitors, including visiting speakers, will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times. We will not invite into the school any speaker who is known to disseminate extremist views, and will carry out appropriate checks to ensure that any individual or organisation using school facilities is not seeking to disseminate extremist views or radicalise pupils or staff.

End of day arrangements

All staff have access to information that states which adults are safe to pick up each child and any identified 'password'.

If a child is not collected at the end of the day, a member of staff will accompany the child(ren) to the school office where their parent/carer will be contacted.

Children who walk home on their own must only do so if written consent is provided by the parents/carers.

All staff will make sure that all children are collected from school by a known and verified trusted adult.

Parents and carers must inform the school office of any change of adult collecting their child(ren) at the end of the day. This will then be passed on to the class teacher/member of staff responsible for dismissing the children at the end of the day.

No member of staff will release a child to an unknown/unverified adult. Staff must accompany the child and any unknown/unverified adult to the school office for confirmation.

If a child goes missing, we will put in place procedures designed to ensure that that they are found and returned to effective supervision as soon as possible. If, after an initial search of the site, the missing child(ren) has not been found, the school will contact the parents and coordinate a plan to conduct an additional search of the school site and local area. At any time that is judged appropriate, the police will be informed.

Multi-agency contacts

If you have concerns about a child/young person in Bristol

If a child is at immediate risk call the POLICE	**POLICE** 999		
To make a referral, i.e. a child is likely to suffer or is suffering significant harm, call children's social care.	**FIRST RESPONSE** - 0117 9036444		
Out of Hours Referrals	**EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM** - 01454 615 165		
Mental Health Crisis (24 hours, 7 days a week)	**Bristol Mental Health -** 0300 555 0334		
To raise concerns and ask for advice about radicalisation (also contact First Response).	**PREVENT DUTY -** 01278 647466 PreventSW@avonandsomerset.police.uk		
To liaise with the specialist Safeguarding Police unit	**Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit** (Avon and Somerset police) 01278 649228 LighthouseBristol@avonandsomerset.police.uk		
For advice and guidance about whether to make a referral	**Family Help**		
South 0117 9037770	**East Central** 0117 3576460	**North** 0117 3521499	

If you have concerns about a professional working with a child…

To raise concerns and ask for guidance in relation to the conduct of someone who works with children	**Local Authority Designated Officer - (LADO)** T: 0117 9037795 KBSP LADO notification form

For information, advice and guidance in relation to safeguarding policy and procedures.

Safeguarding in Education Team T: 01179222532 E: Safeguardingineducationteam@bristol.gov.uk		
South Advisor Helen Macdonald helen.macdonald@bristol.gov.uk 01179222533	**East Central Advisor** **Vacant** Safeguardingineducationteam@bristol.gov.uk 01179222532	**North Advisor** Elisabeth Clark elisabeth.clark@bristol.gov.uk 01179222534
Child sexual exploitation	**Operation Topaz (Avon and Somerset Police)** https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/vul	

Safer Connections

Urgent Referrals and Threshold Advice: For all urgent referrals, requests for service **(including Weapons and Drugs in Schools)**, and threshold advice, contact First Response:
T: 0117 903 6444

Partnership Support: To request non-urgent, non-case specific support from the Partnership Team (such as consultations, training, or coordination around emerging concerns)
E: saferconnections@bristol.gov.uk

Report a Child Missing from Education	**Bristol City Council – Education Welfare** https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/children-missing-education-cme
Children affected by Forced Marriage	**Forced Marriage Unit** T: (0) 20 7008 0151 E: fmu@fco.gov.uk
Online Safety Advice	**Professional Online Safeguarding Helpline** T: 0344 381 4772 E: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
Reporting online abuse and grooming	**Child Exploitation and Online Protection command** https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/
FGM advice	**NSPCC FGM Helpline** T: 0800 028 3550 E: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk
Domestic Abuse support (Bristol)	**Directorate of local and national services** **https://www.bristol.gov.uk/crime-emergencies/abuse-violence**
Young Carers – advice and support.	**Carers Support Centre** T: 0117 958 9980 W:https://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/young-carers/contact-young-carers/
Whistleblowing professional policy	**NSPCC Whistleblowing hotline** T: 0800 028 0285 E: help@nspcc.org.uk

Child and Adolescent Mental health (CAMHS)

Primary Mental Health Specialists (advice) Child and Adolescent Mental Health

South	**East Central**	**North**
0117 3408121	0117 3408600	0117 3546800

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust 24/7 crisis line: 0800 953 1919

Advice around harmful sexualised behaviour.	**Be Safe** 0117 3408700 W: https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/HSB-services/be-safe
	Brook Traffic Light Tool CPD: Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool (RSE) Course

Other Local Authorities Contacts

Local Authority in which the child is resident	Contact details	Out of hours/ Weekend
South Gloucestershire	**Access and Reponses Team** **T: 01454 866000** - Monday to Thursday 9.00 – 5.00, 4.30 on Friday **E: accessandresponse@southglos.gov.uk** **W**: Access and Response Teams (ART) | South Gloucestershire Council (southglos.gov.uk)	**Emergency Duty Team** **01454 615165**
North Somerset	**Single Point of Access** **T: 01275 888 808 –**Monday-Thursday 8.45am-5pm, Friday 8.45am-4.30pm **W**: Children, young people and families | North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk)	
Bath and North East Somerset (BANES)	**Children's Social Work Services** **T: 01225 396312 or 01225 396313** Mon-Thurs 8:30am to 5pm, Friday 08:30-4:30pm **E: ChildCare_Duty@bathnes.gov.uk** **W**:Report a concern about a child | Bath and North East Somerset Council (bathnes.gov.uk)	