



Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy 2021-22

All staff should have access to this policy and sign to the effect that they have read and understood its contents

Date of last review:	September 2021	Author:	Head of Safeguarding
Date of next review:	September 2022	Owner:	Education Directors
Type of policy:	<input type="checkbox"/> Network-wide <input type="checkbox"/> Set for school <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tailored by school	Approval:	Board
School:	Ark Charter Academy	Key Contact Name:	Head of Safeguarding
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POSITIONING WITHIN ARK OPERATIONAL MODEL

Component	Element
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Leadership & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Reporting & Data <input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Accountabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching & Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum & Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture, Ethos & Wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways & Enrichment <input type="checkbox"/> Parents & Community <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, IT & Estates <input type="checkbox"/> Our People	Safeguarding

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Ark Charter Academy
SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Safeguarding Key Contact leaders:

Local Authority: Portsmouth

Principal	Ark's Assistant Regional Director	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/s (DDSLs)	Designated Teacher for Looked After Child (LAC)
Fiona Chapman	Peter Haylock	Philippa Dawson	Donna Howe Vickie Hart	Vickie Hart

Digital Learning Lead (DLL)	Data Protection Lead	SENCo	Behaviour Lead	Educational Visits Co-ordinator
Zack Morgan	Alison Norton	Philippa Dawson	Philippa Dawson	Emily Morey

Attendance Officer	Lead First Aider and Mental Health First Aider	Ark's Head of Safeguarding	Nominated Safeguarding Link Governor	Chair of Governors
Paula Jolly	Philippa Dawson	Joycelyn Thompson	Ella McKay	Charles Hindson

Ark's People Business Partner (HRBP)	Ark Regional Facilities Manager	Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Virtual School Head (LAC)	Schools Police /Community liaison Officer
Karen Stant	Mike Burden	LADO@portsmou thcc.gov.uk	Tina Henley	

What to do if you have a safeguarding concern in Ark Charter Academy

Why are you concerned?

For example:

- Disclosure /voice of the child /online violation/contextual
- Allegation against staff /volunteer
- Child's appearance
- Behaviour change /overhear conversation
- Witnessed concerning behaviour/ risk to self and others

Immediately record your concern on 'Impero EdAware' online recording tool or on a 'Cause for Concern' form (external/visitors only)

FORWARD to DSL WITHOUT DELAY

- Clarify concerns if necessary (TED: Tell, Explain, Describe)
- Use child's own words
- Sign and date your records
- Reassure the child (remain with child if in immediate danger)
- Seek support for yourself if required from DSL

Designated Safeguarding Lead reviews referral and makes a decision about next steps. Feedback (on a need to know basis) is given to staff/ referrer on next steps

Referral /Further discussion

- Consider whether child is at immediate risk of harm e.g. unsafe to go home
- Discussion/refer to other agencies as appropriate e.g. Inter-agency referral
- If allegation against professional inform Principal - LADO notification, Tel call, complete form
- If allegation against Principal inform RD and Ark Head of Safeguarding
- If unsure then consult with Ark Head of Safeguarding /HR Business partner

In School Monitoring Process by identified person or DSL

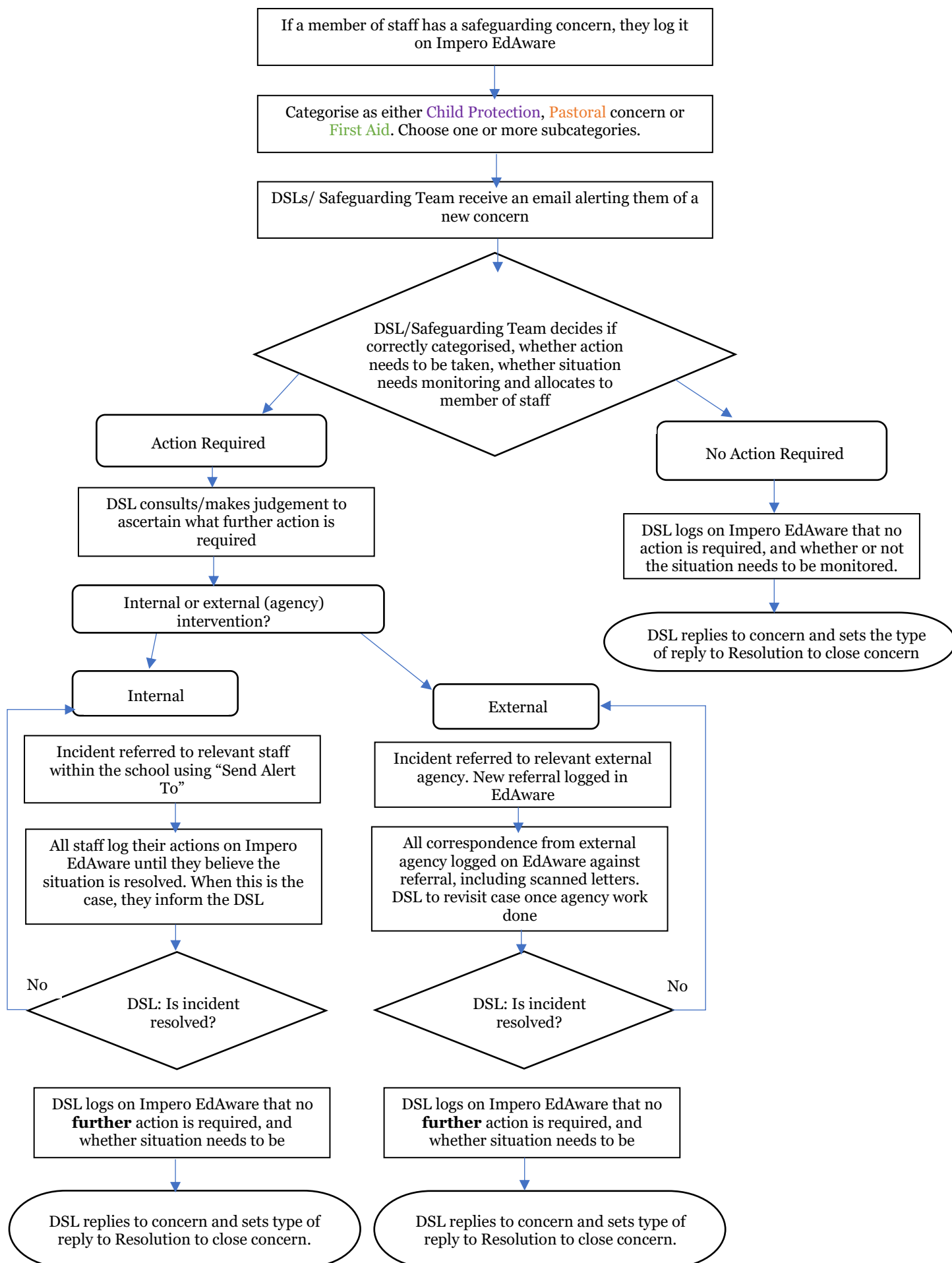
- What you are monitoring – Behaviour, trends, appearance etc.
- How long will you monitor? Timeline
- Where, how and to whom will you feedback? Staff/referrer/Principal
- Where will you record? Impero EdAware
- Inform parent/carer of support provided? Meetings/Support Plans

Record decision

Child deemed at risk of significant harm or the likelihood of danger of harm and or risk. Decision made to refer to Children's social care (MASH/EARLY HELP/CAMHS)

**At all stages the child's circumstances will be kept under review
The DSL/Staff will re-refer if required to ensure the child's safety is paramount**

Impero EdAware Logging and Following Up on Safeguarding Concerns



1. INTRODUCTION AND ETHOS

Ark Charter Academy is a community and all those directly connected (staff, governors, parents, families and pupils) have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure. Ark Charter Academy recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children with their best interests at the centre of our work.

At Ark Charter Academy we are committed to safeguarding children and young people and we expect everyone who works in our school to share this commitment.

Ark Charter Academy recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within school that will help children to feel safe, secure and respected; encourage them to talk openly about anything that worries them; and enable them to feel confident that they will be listened to. Adults in our school take all welfare concerns seriously and are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect; and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

Our school's core safeguarding principles are:

- That school is an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children.
- It is a whole school responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as its paramount concern.
- All children (defined as those up to the age of 18) regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.
- All children have a right to be heard and to have their wishes and feelings taken into account.
- All staff understand safe professional practice (inc. role requirements) and adhere to our code of conduct and other associated policies.
- All staff have a responsibility to recognise vulnerability in children and act on any concern in accordance with this guidance.

There are four main elements to our safeguarding policy:

- **Prevention** (e.g., positive, supportive, safe school culture, curriculum and pastoral opportunities for children, safer recruitment procedures);
- **Protection** (by following the agreed procedures, ensuring all staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to safeguarding concerns);
- **Support** (for all students, parents and staff, and where appropriate specific intervention for those who may be at risk of harm);
- **Working with parents and other agencies** (to ensure appropriate communications and actions are undertaken).

This safeguarding policy requires:

- staff **must** read this safeguarding and child protection policy and as a minimum at least Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021).
- all staff members and new governors **must** receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) which is regularly updated. In addition, all staff should receive safeguarding and child protection updates (including online safety) (for example, via emails, ebulletins and staff meetings), as required, and at least annually, to provide them with the skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively
- all staff and new governors **must** complete the Ark online KCSIE module to assist further to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities.
- All staff must complete the asynchronous Digital Awareness module that can be found on the Ark Learning Platform.
- All DSLs, DLLs and PHSE Leads must attend or watch the recording of the synchronous Digital Awareness training, which will occur in September/October.
- all schools must have a safeguarding induction and a training plan.
- All DSLs are required to read and implement the school Outbreak Management Plan and related guidance and risk assessments for post Covid-19 .
- staff and new governors should complete [the e-learning training module on Prevent](#), produced by the Home Office to equip individuals with the knowledge necessary to help prevent vulnerable people from being exploited and drawn into terrorism and having extremist views.

- all staff **must** read and sign to indicate their understanding of the Ark IT Acceptable Use Agreement.
- all schools **should** undertake an annual internal safeguarding audit process and will be required to complete their LA section 175 audit.
- all schools **should** reference the advice - Sharing nude and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (Dec 2020)
- all staff members should be informed of and how to access their school's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures (Appendix A of their safeguarding and child protection policy), school's behaviour policy and advice from their Local Authority safeguarding local three partner approach procedures.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff and third-party contractors (whose employees or sub-contractors have access to school premises), governors, volunteers and trustees working in or on behalf of the school, including those from the Ark central team. All references in this document to 'staff' or 'members of staff' or 'adult' should be interpreted as relating to all those specified above. Staff also includes those individuals who educate pupils off-site and when individuals undertake an educational visit with pupils, unless otherwise stated.

Rather than duplicating all content from Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) in this policy, it should be understood that the school will always refer to KCSIE as the benchmark for all safeguarding practice and decision-making.

3. CONTEXT

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by The Children Acts 1989 (and 2004 amendment), as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and comply with statutory and legislative requirements and guidance that seeks to protect children including:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) DfE (Sept 2021)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE (July 2018)
- Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children
- Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused DfE (March 2015)
- Information Sharing Advice for practitioners DfE (July 2018)
- Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People in Education Settings (May 2019)
- Use of reasonable force: Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies (July 2013 reviewed July 2015)
- 'Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty, which explains schools' duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- The Equality Act 2010
- Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years (Jan 2015)
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Information Protection Regulations
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges DfE (Sept 2021)
- The Serious Crime Act 2015 (sets out a duty on professionals (including teachers) to notify police when they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18).
- Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (DfE, July 2020)
- 'Early years foundation stage statutory framework (EYFS)' (Feb 2018)
- Education Inspection Framework and handbooks (April 2021)
- Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings (Sept 2019)

Section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 requires school governing bodies, local education authorities and further education institutions to arrange to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children who are pupils at a school, or who are students under 18 years of age, such arrangements will have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

4. DEFINITION OF SAFEGUARDING

“Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It includes a wide range of issues relating to pupil’s welfare, health and safety.” (Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills, Ofsted, September 2019)

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, (Paragraph 4 KCSIE 2021) defines as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children’s mental or 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 an aspect of safeguarding but is focused on how we respond to prevent children suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child and may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. See [Appendix A of this policy](#) for the different types of abuse.

Neglect is a form of abuse and is 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. [Appendix A](#) defines neglect in more detail.

Children include everyone under the age of 18.

Children in need: A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. Local safeguarding partners are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Where appropriate we will work with the procedures in place through the three local safeguarding partners.

The school acknowledges that safeguarding is what we do for all children.

Safeguarding covers more than just child protection and schools are charged with ensuring that the child is looked at holistically and at the centre of decision-making within each area below (but not limited to):

- Anti-bullying/peer on peer policies
- Child protection
- Early Help
- Staff conduct & Safer work practice
- Curriculum inc. RHSE, online safety, digital resilience, PSHE, character
- Attendance, PA, Exclusions, Children Missing Education, Transition, off site provision, Post 16
- EYFS
- Health and Safety
- IT Filtering and Monitoring
- Behaviour Management
- Governance
- SEND & Inclusion

- Training
- Whistleblowing
- A listening School/Service
- Specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues
- Complaints/ parental concerns
- Allegations made against/ Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors
- The School Environment *Inc. Building & Security*
- Safer recruitment and selection

The school further acknowledges that this policy will also incorporate a range of specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues including (but not limited to):

- Additional advice and support of Bullying including cyberbullying
- Child abduction and community safety incidents
- Children and the court system
- Children missing from education
- Children missing from home or care
- Children with family members in prison
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and vulnerable adult's county lines
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- County lines
- Cybercrime
- Drugs & alcohol misuse
- Domestic abuse / Relationship abuse
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith based abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage
- Gender based violence / violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Hate
- Homelessness
- So-called 'honour-based' abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage)
- Mental health
- Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism
- Peer on peer /child on child abuse
- Preventing youth violence and gang involvement
- Preventing radicalisation
- The Prevent duty
- Channel
- Private fostering
- Additional support
- Serious violence
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges
- The response to a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment
- Trauma
- Up skirting

(Also see Annex B within 'Keeping children safe in education' 2021 and Appendix C of this policy).

Every member of staff at Ark Charter Academy recognises that children experiencing specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues identified above are no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability or concern and will be approached and responded to in the same way as protecting children from any other risks. Staff members are aware that children might not tell them about their abuse and that it may be that a member overhears a conversation or the child's behaviour changes.

5. RELATED SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

We are aware that safeguarding is fundamental to the welfare of all children in our care. This policy is therefore one of a series in the school's integrated safeguarding portfolio and should be read in conjunction with the policies, guidance documents or procedures as listed below. These documents should be available on the Ark Library, the [policy index](#) or [Statutory Guidance Index](#), a few are sections within other policies.

- **Behaviour Management, linked to the Use of Physical Intervention** – each school writes their own behaviour policy
- **Searching, screening and confiscation** – no separate policy, (DfE guidance Jan 2018) should be covered in the behaviour policy
- **Online Safety and Digital awareness** – covered within digital strategy, section within the Safeguarding policy
- **Anti-Bullying procedure** – procedure is on statutory guidance index
- **Managing harmful behaviours** – document on Ark Library (Culture & Ethos section)
- **Data Protection and Information Sharing** – on the Policy Index
- **IT Acceptable Use Agreement** – on the Policy Index
- **Image Use** – no separate document, section included in IT Acceptable Use Agreement
- **Drugs & substance misuse** – Covered within schools PHSE policy
- **Supporting Transgender Pupils Code of Practice** – guidance is on statutory guidance index
- **Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education** – each school writes own policy - guidance on the statutory guidance index
- **Health and Safety** – on policy index
- **Attendance (Children Missing Education)** – attendance policy on policy index, CME covered within the Safeguarding policy
- **Risk Assessments** (e.g., school trips, use of technology, Covid-19) – guidance and templates on Ark Library within relevant team
- **First Aid and Accidents** – policy on index
- **Procedure for Managing Allegations made against/ Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors** – procedure on Statutory Guidance Index
- **Code of Conduct for Staff** – each school writes their own, People Team provide advice
- **Complaints** – on policy index
- **Safer Recruitment** – no separate policy, sections within the Safeguarding policy (Appendix D) and Recruitment & Appointment Policy
- **Whistleblowing** – on policy index

Supporting Guidance (to be read and followed alongside this document)

- The Children and Families Act 2014
- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2015
- Mental Health & Behaviour in Schools 2018
- Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (DfE Aug 2018)
- School attendance 2016
- Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England (Sept 2017)
- Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance July 2017
- Teachers Standards 2012

- ‘When to call the police’ Guidance for schools and colleges, produced by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) 2020.
- Home Office’s Preventing youth violence and gang involvement (Aug 2013)
- DfE Advice on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges (SVSH)
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- DfE Designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children 2018
- Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- DfE “Teaching Online Safety in Schools” (June 2019)
- Sharing nude and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (Dec 2020)
- DfE Data Protection: A Toolkit for Schools
- LA Safeguarding Partnerships arrangements

6. Equality statement

Some children have an increased risk of abuse and additional barriers can exist for some children with respect to recognising it or disclosing it. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children’s diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same protection, regardless of any barriers they may face. All staff are particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs.
- Has experienced challenges during Covid-19 pandemic
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan - EHCP). These children may be more prone to peer group isolation than other children and therefore additional pastoral support is provided.
- Is a young carer
- Is showing signs of being drawn into antisocial or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- Is at risk of Child abduction, community safety incidents or exploitation
- Is showing signs of 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.
- Is showing signs of Trauma
- Bereaved parent, grandparent, family member, friend or prominent community link
- May experience discrimination due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identification or sexuality
- Has English as an additional language
- Is post 16 and homeless/sofa surfing
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or home
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol
- Is known to be living in difficult circumstances, for example living in temporary accommodation or where there are issues such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic violence
- Is at risk of FGM, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, or radicalisation
- Is an asylum seeker
- Is a looked after child, previously looked after or has returned home to their family from care (a ‘care leaver’)
- Is a privately fostered child
- Has a parent sent to prison. The National Information Centre of Children of Offenders (NICCO): <https://www.nicco.org.uk/> provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

7. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families have a role to play in safeguarding children. Schools and off-site provisions form part of the wider safeguarding system for children.

The Ark Schools Trust Board

The Ark Schools Board retains statutory responsibility for ensuring that all legal responsibilities in connection with Safeguarding are discharged. The Board appoints a Safeguarding Link Trustee to act as the link between the Trustees and Executive team.

Ark's Head of Safeguarding

The Head of Safeguarding holds responsibility for overseeing day-to-day safeguarding matters within the network, and will ensure schools have appropriate safeguarding processes, practices and relevant training to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Head of Safeguarding will provide schools with high quality safeguarding support, advice and guidance tailored to individual needs and requirements, ensuring schools meet their statutory responsibility to keep children safe.

Ark recognises that staff anxiety around child protection can undermine good practice and so the Head of Safeguarding will ensure that there are established clear lines of accountability and case management and supervision to support staff with this process.

The Head of Safeguarding will ensure that the annual safeguarding Audit process is effectively carried out and report any inadequacies to the Network' executive team, Safeguarding Link Trustee, Regional Director, Principal, DSL and Safeguarding Link governor. This will also form part of the report to inform the Trust Board.

Principal/Head of School

The Principal/Head of School will ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the Ark Schools Board and Local Governing Body associated with protecting children are fully implemented, understood and followed by all staff and adhered to at all times.

The Principal/Head of School will ensure that the DSL and DDSs are properly supported in this role with adequate time, training and resources, and that there is always adequate cover if the DSL is absent.

The Principal will appoint a Designated Lead for online safety with appropriate skills, interest and expertise regarding online safety and curriculum

The Principal/Head of School will ensure their school maintains up to date records of all safeguarding concerns, using Impero EdAware as their sole recording tool for concerns, LADO referrals, physical restraint incidents and first aid incidents.

The Principal/Head of School will ensure their school maintains secure monitoring and filtering solutions for its school's devices that can alert the DSL as soon as a problem emerges.

The Principal/Head of School will act as the 'case manager' in the event of an allegation of abuse or concern raised against another member of staff, volunteer or supply teacher, where appropriate and that the Head of Safeguarding is emailed to inform about any LADO referrals.

The Principal/Head of School and the DSL are responsible to ensure that children are taught about safeguarding including online safety and resilience, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

This may include covering relevant issues through Relationships Education, Relationship and Sex Education and PSHE tutorials.

Ark Charter Academy RSE policy in Appendix A of this policy.

Where alternative provision is in place, the Principal/Head of School are responsible for obtaining written confirmation from that provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working in the provision, i.e. those checks that the school would otherwise perform in respect of its own staff.

The Principal/Head of School and DSL are responsible for communicating this policy during induction to new staff and to parents when a child joins Ark Charter Academy and via the school website

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

The school has appointed a member of the senior leadership team, as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL has the overall responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems in school.

The DSL will undergo appropriate and specific training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out their role. The DSL's training will be updated formally every two years but may have refresher training at regular intervals, at least annually, to keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

Additionally, DSLs knowledge and skills will be updated regularly through a variety of other methods, e.g. e-bulletins and briefings, organising and participating in conferences, local meetings, other identified training, supervision, Ark network training and Ark DSL hub meetings.

The school has appointed additional staff to deputise for the DSL. The Deputy DSLs have attended appropriate training, which enables them to be fully conversant and to fulfil this role. Whilst the activities of the designated safeguarding lead may be delegated to the deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the designated safeguarding lead and this responsibility will not be delegated.

It is the role of the DSL to:

- Liaise with Ark's Head of Safeguarding in reporting serious safeguarding issues relating to children and in matters relating to staff.
- To provide their Principal/Head of School with regular data reports, analysis of cases, pattern and trends and informed of any serious safeguarding issues relating to children and staff.
- Represent, or ensure the school is appropriately represented at inter-agency safeguarding meetings (including Child Protection conferences).
- Help promote educational outcomes, academic progress by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children, including children with a social worker, are experiencing, or have experienced, with teachers and leadership staff.
- DSL needs to share information about pupil's welfare, safeguarding or CP with relevant staff
- Contributing to the review of records relevant to freedom of information and subject access requests.
- **Maintain accurate child case records:**
(recording concerns, actions, referrals and updates on Impero EdAware – safeguarding recording tool, oversight and quality assurance of all cases inc. LAC/PLAC and pupils with a social worker, Behaviour on Bromcom/Scholarpack, Manage and monitor the school's part in Early Help / Child in Need / Child Protection / TAC/ TAS plans, Monitoring violations via SENSO on devices)
- **Raise awareness about safeguarding:**
(annual audit, training, briefings, network hubs, DSL Champions, digital strategy/awareness & resilience)
- **To make referrals and liaise with other services:**
(to strengthen safeguarding response to Local Authority (MASH/localised), Early Help, leaver/in-year transition, CAMHS, counselling –universal, targeted, specialist interventions and safeguarding partners and other agencies and Professionals as necessary)
- **To support and advise staff**
(Act as the central contact point for all staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns, .code of conduct, position of trust, staff concerns, allegations & vulnerabilities, duty of care, professional curiosity and well-being)
- Further details about the role of the DSL can be found in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2021, Annex C.

Local Governing Body (LGB)

The LGB, have read and will follow KCSIE 2021 and will provide independent advice and oversight to their school.

The LGB performs a vital role in monitoring compliance and challenging the academy to ensure that best practice is followed. Therefore, all governors must recognise their safeguarding duties towards children in their school. LGB governors are required to sign in acknowledgement of this responsibility upon joining their LGB and this is to be reviewed annually

The LGB has nominated a governor for safeguarding named on the front of this document. The nominated governor will undertake independent oversight of school level delivery in safeguarding by having termly meetings with the DSL, being part of the school safeguarding audit process and presenting the audit and end of year reports to the LGB.

Members of Staff

All members of staff have a responsibility to:

- provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- maintain an attitude of **'it could happen here'** where safeguarding is concerned and to always act in the best interests of the child
- record promptly any safeguarding concern, first aid incident, online violation or physical restraint incident that you have about a child on Impero EdAware the safeguarding all-in-one online recording tool or a cause for concern form (volunteers and external visitors) (WTD charts– pg. 4 & 5).
- be prepared to identify children who may benefit from Early help, early intervention is support given to a family when a problem first emerges. It can be provided at any stage in a child or young person's life.
- believe a child or young person to be at significant risk, you should get in touch with the DSL or DDSL immediately.
- reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim 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.
- know your DSL and DDSL and work with them in carrying out your safeguarding duties.
- provide additional information to social workers or other agencies following referrals if directed to by the DSL or DDSL
- ensure all children are able to develop appropriate strategies to recognise and respond to risk and build resilience
- use information provided by DSL to inform pupil's academic progress and pre-empt challenges
- allow adequate support to be in place with staff team
- recognise and know what to do if they identify a safeguarding issue or a child who may be in need of extra help or if a child tells staff they are being abused or neglected, or a child who is suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm including specific issues. such as CCE/County lines. This includes the experiences of girls being criminally exploited can be very different to boys, indicators of CCE may also be different for girls.
- recognise the signs of different types of abuse and neglect, as well as specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues such as child sexual exploitation (CSE), FGM, county lines and radicalisation. See 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2021, Annex B. [Specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues](#)
- provide the appropriate safeguarding response to pupils who go missing from education.
- understand the early help process and their role within it, including identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL, and sharing information with other professionals and relevant agencies to support early identification and assessment
- take appropriate action to prevent safeguarding concerns escalating and work with other services as needed to safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties
- recognise safeguarding incidents and/or behaviour can be associated with factors outside the academy and can/or occur between children outside of these environments.

These are the contextual factors i.e. wider environmental factors that are present in a child's life that are or may be a threat to their safety and or welfare.

- be aware of and take appropriate action to raise concerns regarding poor or unsafe practice, staff conduct or potential failures in the school safeguarding regime (this may include accessing the school whistleblowing policy and or procedure on allegations made against/ concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors)
- respond to and refer any concerns about children or other members of the community in accordance with this policy
- contribute towards, read and adhere to the school policies
- follow safer recruitment practices of staff involved in recruitment and selection

All members of staff at Ark Charter Academy know what to do if a child tells them he/she or that another peer or sibling is being abused or neglected. Members of staff know to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality whilst at the same time liaising with relevant professionals such as the DSL and other agencies as appropriate. Members of staff know they must never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a concern or allegation as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child.

The welfare and safety of children are the responsibility of all staff in school and ANY concern for a pupil's welfare MUST always be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or DDSL.

If outside of school hours staff have concerns about a child or if you're worried a child in the community is being radicalised, is involved in or at risk from gangs or any other child safety concerns (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger or harm) the NSPCC has a dedicated helpline you can contact: 0800 800 5000 or you can contact the charity at: help@NSPCC.org.uk. If a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999 straight away or call 101 for non-emergency concerns.

Children and young people

Children and young people (pupils) have a responsibility to:

- contribute to the development of school safeguarding policies
- read and adhere to (at a level appropriate to their age and ability) the schools safeguarding policies and procedures
- read, sign and adhere to the Home School Agreement that outlines the use and breach of Ark school devices
- navigate digital tools safely, be critical about the information they find online, and use digital tools to enhance their learning and experiences. They know what to do if things go wrong and how to seek help from a trusted adult if they feel at risk of harm, and support others that may be experiencing safeguarding concerns by reporting to a trusted adult
- develop and take responsibility (at a level that is appropriate to their individual age, ability and vulnerabilities) for keeping themselves and others safe, including online safety, remote learning and digital resilience
- follow the schools' behaviour policy and other related policies, procedures and guidance to ensure you keep safe both in and out of school.

Parents and Carers

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- Read the relevant school policies, procedures and guidance, encouraging their child/ren to adhere to them, and adhering to them themselves where appropriate
- Discuss safeguarding issues with their child/ren, support the school in their safeguarding approaches, and reinforce appropriate safe behaviours at home
- Identify changes in behaviour which could indicate that their child/ren is at risk of harm online or contextual and raising these concerns with school
- Seek help and support from the school, or other appropriate agencies, if they or their child/ren encounters any safeguarding concern

- Contribute to the development of the schools safeguarding policies

Parents can support their children to navigate the internet safely, understand the risks and know what to do if things go wrong. Parents know how to support their child's learning at home and know what to do if things go wrong.

At Ark Charter Academy the DSL will ensure parents are signposted to SPArk website and provide parent pack and promote parent workshops. DSLs follow good practice guidance on involving parents where safeguarding issues arise online.

Ark Charter Academy will undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to any proposed interagency involvement unless the circumstances preclude this action. If we believe that notifying the parents/carers would increase the risk to the child, or exacerbate the situation, we will seek advice from the three local safeguarding partners.

In the case of allegations of abuse made against other children, we will normally notify the parents of all the children involved.

Ark Charter Academy will always follow up with parents/carers when pupils are not at school. This means we need to have at least two up to date contact numbers for parents/carers plus one other in case of emergencies. Parents should remember to update the school as soon as possible if the numbers change.

Parents can obtain a hard copy of the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and other related policies on request to the school and can view them via the school website.

8. RECOGNITION AND TYPES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

All staff in school should be aware of the definitions, signs, and symptoms of abuse. There are four categories of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect

The most up to date definitions and possible indicators and signs of abuse are found in Appendix A of this policy. Staff should also refer to ‘Signs and Indicators of Abuse and Neglect’ and Safeguarding issues (Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021) Paragraphs 20-52) and ‘What to do if you are worried a child is being abused’ 2015.

All members of staff are 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.

Members of staff are aware that child welfare concerns may arise in many different contexts and can vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness. For example, children may be abused in a family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or by a stranger. An adult or adults, or another child or children may abuse them. Their peers, family members, by unknown, or in some cases unidentifiable individuals, may abuse children via the internet. In the case of honour-based abuse, including forced marriage and female genital mutilation, children may be taken out of the country to be abused. An abused child may often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives.

Abuse and neglect can happen over a period of time but can also be a one-off event. This can have major long-term impacts on all aspects of a child's health, development and well-being.

The warning signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect can vary from child to child. Children also develop and mature at different rates, so what appears to be worrying behaviour for a younger child might be normal for an older child. Parental behaviours may also indicate child abuse or neglect, so staff should also be alert to parent-child interactions or concerning parental behaviours; this could include parents who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol or if there is a sudden change in their mental health.

By understanding the warning signs, we can respond to problems as early as possible and provide the right support and services for the child and their family. It is important to recognise that a warning sign does not automatically mean a child is being abused.

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of Safeguarding. Missing school or persistent absence or unknown leavers can be an indicator of abuse and neglect and may raise concerns about other safeguarding issues, including the criminal exploitation of children.

We monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance without delay.

9. SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

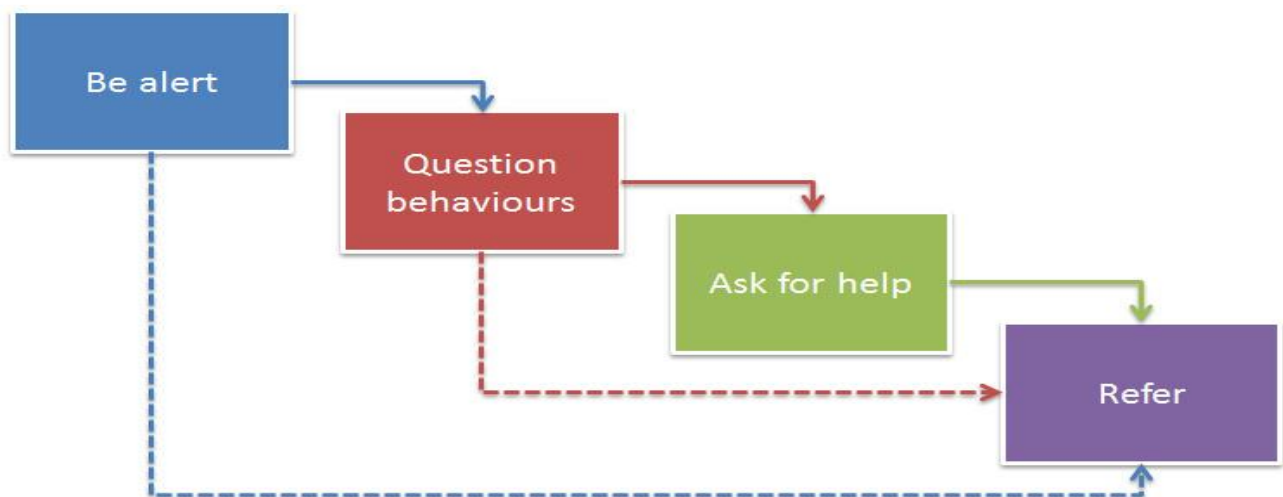
Ark Charter Academy adheres to their Local Authority Safeguarding three partners approach Procedures. The full procedures and additional guidance relating to specific safeguarding issues can be found on the LA Safeguarding Partnership website.

Additional guidance for staff includes

- ‘What to do if you are Worried About a Child Being Abused’ (DfE 2015)
- Information Sharing (2018)

‘What to do if you are worried about a child being abused’ (DfE 2015) p.12 (s.24) identifies that there are four key steps for professionals to follow to help identify and respond appropriately to possible abuse and/or neglect.

All members of staff are expected to be aware of and follow this approach:



It may not always be appropriate to go through all four stages sequentially and if a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a referral should be made immediately to children’s social care and/or the police.

The role of the school in situations where there are child protection concerns is NOT to investigate but to recognise and refer.

It is the responsibility of the DSL to receive and collate information regarding individual children, to make immediate and on-going assessments of potential risk and to decide actions necessary (with parents / carers in most cases). This includes the need to make referrals to partner agencies and services.

- To help with this decision s/he may choose to consult with the LA multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH) / social care duty team/ Early Help team.
- Advice may also be sought from Ark Head of Safeguarding.
- Issues discussed during consultations may include the urgency and gravity of the concerns for a child or young person and the extent to which parents/carers are made aware of these.

All members of staff are made aware of the Early Help process and understand their role within it. This includes identifying emerging problems, liaising with the designated safeguarding lead, sharing information with other professionals to support early

identification and assessment and, in some cases, acting as the lead professional in undertaking an early help assessment.

If Early Help is assessed to be appropriate, then the DSL will support staff members involved with the family in liaising with other agencies and submitting an Early Help Notification Form. The DSL will keep all early help cases under constant review and will consider making a referral to social care if the situation does not appear to be improving for the child. New referrals to services will be made using the agreed LA multi agency referral form.

When to call the police (NPCC)

Ark Charter Academy follows the advice 'When to call the police' which covers incidents on school premises where students have potentially committed a crime. It provides guidance on what schools and colleges should bear in mind when considering contacting the police and aims to support schools and college to make defensible decisions when considering whether to involve the police.

This advice covers the following situations:

- Assault
- Criminal damage
- Cyber crime
- Drugs
- Harassment
- Sexual offences
- Theft
- Weapons.

In all but the most exceptional circumstances, parents /carers will be made aware of the concerns felt for a child or young person at the earliest possible stage. In the event of a referral to the LA social care team being necessary, parents/carers will be informed and consent to this will be sought unless there is a valid reason not to do so or it will place the pupil at further harm or risk.

10. RECORD KEEPING

- **Impero EdAware**

Staff will record any safeguarding concern, first aid incident or physical restraint incident that they have about a child on Impero EdAware the safeguarding all-in-one online recording tool. Schools may also have a safeguarding incident/concern form for volunteers, supply teachers, extended staff or visitors who do not have a school email address account. These forms are held on the shared drive, in the staff room, in the main office or with the DSL. All referrals must be passed without delay to the DSL. Records will be completed as soon as possible after the incident/event, using the child's words where necessary, and will be signed and dated.

All staff at Ark Charter Academy are trained on the use of Impero EdAware. It forms part of the induction process for staff as well as within the annual safeguarding training, which is delivered to all staff.

All disclosures and concerns recorded on Impero EdAware allows school to manage all areas of safeguarding and child protection, including pupil casework, add meetings to a child's chronology, staff training, first aid and physical restraint incidents. This allows immediate follow up and management by the DSL on any issue.

The Ark schools' Head of Safeguarding can access these folders, so if a similar case was to occur, as well as being alerted by the DSL (case pertaining to a student, Principal for one pertaining to staff/supply, volunteer), they would be able to track the case through EdAware. The Ark schools' Head of Safeguarding would contact either the DSL/Principal if there was any concern regarding a lack of information, cases not resolved or updated or if it appeared, there was a concerning pattern developing.

If members of staff are in any doubt about recording requirements staff must discuss their concerns with the DSL.

Safeguarding records are kept for individual children and are maintained separately from all other records relating to the child in school. Safeguarding records are kept in accordance with data protection legislation and retained centrally and securely by the DSL and are shared with staff on a 'need to know' basis only.

- **SENSO**

At Ark Charter Academy SENSO our solution to support safeguarding monitoring of remote learning and school-based devices that are provided by Ark.

Senso is a cloud -based solution that will let us monitor and manage all computers and students throughout the network from a centralised web portal in real time.

DSLs/Team will receive alerts for safeguarding violations & review and action the critical and urgent alerts within 48 working hours. A top-level overview of all violations across a single or multi-site setup where teachers can monitor and manage their class with live thumbnails.

Exporting evidence when a Senso alert qualifies as a concern in EdAware, under the judgement of the DSL and weekly violation logs/reports provided to DSL & Principal

DSL's will share any information about welfare, safeguarding and child protection with the relevant teachers. They should ensure the teacher knows who these children are. This will help the teacher understand these student's academic progress and attainment, maintain a culture of high expectations for them, by teachers knowing it will support them to be able to identify challenges they may face and the academic support and adjustments that may need to be made.

DSLs will ensure that half termly pupil case analysis from Impero EdAware is completed. The Principal/Head of School will be kept informed of any significant safeguarding issues that require escalation, developing patterns/trends or additional needs, by the DSL.

The DSL will ensure that school has more than one available emergency contacts for pupils. School should have at least two emergency contacts for every child in the school in case of emergencies, and in case, there are welfare concerns at the home.

All safeguarding records will be transferred in accordance with data protection legislation to a child's subsequent school/setting, under confidential and separate cover to the new DSL or Principal/Head of School and a receipt of delivery will be obtained.

11. MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Ark Charter Academy recognises and is committed to its responsibility to work with other professionals and agencies in line with statutory guidance (WTSC 2018). Ark Charter Academy must ensure children's needs are met and to protect them from harm. All staff will endeavour to identify those children and families who may benefit from the intervention and support of external professionals and will seek to enable referrals, in discussion with parents/carers as appropriate.

Schools are not the investigating agency when there are child protection concerns and the school will therefore pass all relevant cases to the statutory agencies. We will however contribute to the investigation and assessment processes as required and recognise that a crucial part of this may be in supporting the child while these take place.

Ark Charter Academy will follow the new local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements under the LA Safeguarding Partnership system. The DSL will ensure the changes are updated to staff to reflect what's new and staff should understand their roles and responsibilities under the new system.

Ark Charter Academy recognises the importance of multi-agency working and will ensure that staff are enabled to attend relevant safeguarding meetings, including Child Protection

Conferences, Core Groups, Strategy Meetings, Child in Need meetings and Early Help Teams around the Child / Family. The School Leadership Team and DSL will work to establish strong and co-operative relationships with relevant professionals in other agencies.

12. CONFIDENTIALITY, INFORMATION SHARING AND GDPR

Ark Charter Academy recognises that all matters relating to child protection are confidential. The Principal/Head of School or DSL will only disclose information about a pupil to other members of staff on a 'need to know' basis.

All members of staff must be aware that whilst they have duties to keep any information about children, families and colleagues, which have, access to because of their role confidential, they also have a professional responsibility to share information if it is necessary and proportionate with other agencies in order to safeguard children.

These organisations include the three local safeguarding partners:

- The local authority;
- A clinical commissioning group for an area within the local authority; and
- The chief officer of police for an area (any part of which falls) within the local authority area.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent, or limit, 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 promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

Information sharing is vital in identifying and tackling all forms of abuse and neglect, and in promoting children's welfare, including their educational outcomes. Ark Charter Academy have clear powers to share, hold and use information for these purposes.

All staff are directed for further information to the July 2018 Government guidance, Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers, which includes "seven golden rules for sharing information", as set out below:

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

7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets, which might compromise the child's safety or wellbeing. Further advice on responding to disclosures can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

Everyone in this school who deals with personal data shares the responsibility for data protection.

Ark Charter Academy ensure that policies, training and practice give staff the confidence to know when, how and to whom they can share sensitive information when dealing with a safeguarding concern. The annual safeguarding training also covers how to record that information in a neutral and professional manner, focusing on what is necessary for the safeguarding purpose.

Data protection law is not a barrier, but it is a system of checks and balances to be borne in mind when recording, sharing, and retaining vital but sensitive data.

- School must appoint a Data Protection Lead to be responsible for guiding the school on data protection matters.
- Senior leaders who manage the 'data ecosystem' should be aware of the content of GDPR in order to oversee how the school is complying with data protection legislation and risks involved
- Training and guidance are available with regards to what information can be shared and withheld when managing any data subject request (for example when an individual exercises an individual's right to access, amend, delete or restrict processing of their peers.
- Staff who influence how data is used, processed and secured should be involved in creating high-level data maps and be aware of lawful reasons for processing data and minimising risks.
- All staff should be aware of what personal data is, how it can be used, and anonymise data. Additional training and guidance are provided to the Data Protection Lead and Senior Leadership Team of the school to support any individual when sharing or withholding personal data. Additionally, the academy's Data Protection Officer can be contacted (dataprotection@arkonline.org) in the event that any additional guidance or support is required.

When withholding personal data as part of subject access request or freedom of information response, this should be approved by the Data Protection Officer.

13. COMPLAINTS

The school has a Complaints Procedure available to parents, pupils and members of staff who wish to report a complaint or concern.

Staff wishing to raise employment issues should consult the staff grievance procedure. It is Ark's intention that all concerns and complaints are dealt with efficiently, sensitively and wherever possible, in confidence.

All reported concerns must be taken seriously and considered within the relevant and appropriate process.

Procedures can be found in the school office and on the school website.

14. STAFF INDUCTION, AWARENESS AND TRAINING

All members of staff will be provided with a copy of part one of the "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (2021) which covers Safeguarding information. School leaders will read the entire document. School leaders and all members of staff who work directly with children will access Part One within Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021. Members of staff will

sign to confirm that they have read and understood Part One of KCSIE 2021 and this information is kept on the school's Single Central Record (SCR).

Staff and governors are also required to complete the Ark online KCSIE module to assist further to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities.

The DSL will ensure that all new staff and volunteers including teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff and third-party contractors (whose employees or sub-contractors have access to school premises), governors, volunteers and trustees working in or on behalf of the school, including those from Ark central team are appropriately inducted as regards the school's internal safeguarding procedures and communication lines.

A summary information sheet is available to be given to staff and volunteers to support this process.

All staff members will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (organised by the DSL) which will enable them to:

- **Recognise** potential safeguarding and child protection concerns involving pupils and adults (colleagues, other professionals and parents/carers)
- **Respond** appropriately to safeguarding issues and take action in line with this policy
- **Record** concerns in line with the school policies
- **Refer** concerns to the DSL and be able to seek support external to the school if required

All staff members and new governors **must** receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) which is regularly updated. In addition, all staff should receive safeguarding and child protection updates (including online safety) (for example, via emails, ebulletins and staff meetings), as required, and at least annually, to provide them with the skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively

The key training elements are:

Induction Training – this is mandatory and should include;

- the child protection policy;
- the behaviour policy;
- the staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct);
- the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and
- the role of the designated safeguarding lead (including the identity of the designated safeguarding lead and any deputies). (see KCSIE (2021))

DSLs – attend LA training every two years; and in addition to formal training, their knowledge and skills should be refreshed at regular intervals, at least annually.

All other staff – teaching, non-teaching and volunteers will receive appropriate training to ensure they are aware of a range of safeguarding issues (see definition of safeguarding) and are aware that behaviours linked to the likes of drug taking, alcohol abuse, truanting and peer on peer abuse such as bullying and sharing nudes and semi-nudes can put children in danger. The staff training will also include school responsibilities, the school/child protection procedures, online safety, resilience and awareness, safe working practice and external reporting mechanisms.

All members of staff will be made aware of the school's expectations regarding safe and professional practice via the staff behaviour policy, staff code of conduct and the IT Acceptable Use policy, which is provided and discussed as part of the induction process.

will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

Safer Recruitment training is available to all relevant staff and governors who are involved in the recruitment process.

The school recognises the expertise, which members of staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns on a daily basis. Opportunity is therefore, provided for all staff to contribute to and shape safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding policy via involvement in staff departmental meetings.

The DSL will work with the Safeguarding link governor and the Head of Safeguarding to produce an audit report for the Spring 1 LGB meeting. An end of year report to be presented

at the LGB Autumn 1 meeting to the Governing Body detailing safeguarding training undertaken by all staff and will maintain up to date registers of who has been trained.

Although the school has a nominated lead for the governing body, all members of the governing body will access appropriate safeguarding training which covers their specific strategic responsibilities on a regular basis.

15. SAFE WORKING PRACTICE

All members of staff are required to work within clear guidelines on Safe Working Practice / the school's Code of Conduct.

Children may make allegations against staff in situations where they feel vulnerable or where they perceive there to be a possible risk to their welfare. As such, all staff should take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position regarding child protection or potential allegations. For example, it is always advisable for interviews or work with individual children or parents to be conducted in agreed assigned areas.

Physical intervention should only be used when the child is endangering him/herself or others and such events should be recorded on Impero EdAware and signed off by the DSL. Staff should be aware of the school's Behaviour Management Policy; position of trust guidance and any physical interventions must be in line with agreed policy and procedure in which appropriate training should be provided.

Full advice and guidance can be found in Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People in Education Settings (2019) and Use of Reasonable Force: Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies (July 2013) link to both guidance is in Appendix B of this guidance.

Staff should be particularly aware of the professional risks associated with the use of social media and electronic communication (email, mobile phones, texting, social network sites etc.). Staff should familiarise themselves with advice and professional expectations outlined in Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People in Education Settings and the network policy [IT Acceptable Use Agreement - January 2021-January 2024.pdf](#)

16. STAFF SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

Any member of staff affected by issues arising from concerns for children's welfare or safety can seek support from the DSL.

The induction process will include familiarisation with child protection responsibilities and procedures to be followed if staff have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare.

The school will provide appropriate supervision and support for all members of staff to ensure that:

- All staff are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Staff are able to create an environment where members of staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in their safeguarding role
- All staff have regular reviews of their own practice to ensure they improve over time.
- The Head of Safeguarding will provide KIT support to those new in role and where additional supervision is required.
- Clinical supervision support is offered to DSLs/DDSLs throughout the network
- A named person has been identified to take responsibility for digital resilience and online safety curriculum. This is either the Digital Learning Lead or DSL.
- The DSL Safeguarding IT and Systems Strategy group provide support and best practice approaches to schools on the digital strategy
- A regional DSL Champion is assigned to the school to support to drive activity, best practice and approaches to safeguarding.

17. SAFER RECRUITMENT

Ark Charter Academy is committed to ensure that all steps are taken to only recruit staff and volunteers who are safe to work with our pupils and have their welfare and protection as the highest priority.

At Ark Charter Academy the use of the Ark Recruitment & Appointment policy (Appendix D of this policy) is to ensure that Ark Schools employs appropriately skilled staff, assist Ark Schools to deter, identify and reject people who are unsuitable to work with children, help promote equality of opportunity and ensure that Ark Schools meets its statutory obligations.

Safer recruitment is a set of practices and a vital part of creating a safe and positive environment and making a commitment to keep children safe from harm. Ark Charter Academy is responsible for implementing robust safer recruitment practices when recruiting, particularly during the advertising, shortlisting, interviewing and assessment process. Safer recruitment should be a continuing process of improvement for Ark Charter Academy or any club, business or organisation whose work or services involve contact with our pupils.

Ark Charter Academy is responsible for ensuring that safer recruitment processes outlined within guidance, including an application, vetting and recruitment process which places safeguarding at its centre, regardless of employee or voluntary role and appropriate pre-appointment checks.

All staff are asked to disclose any reason that may affect their suitability to work with children at interview.

Ark Charter Academy is responsible for ensuring that the school maintains an accurate Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is a list of all staff, volunteers, agency staff, contractors and governors and includes appropriate recruitment and training information such as:

At Ark Charter Academy the Single Central Record (SCR) is used to store important information relating to staff member pre-employment checks. The SCR is centrally stored on Bromcom/ ScholarPack. These checks are carried out and recorded to ensure anyone working within Ark Charter Academy is not a safeguarding risk to children. For this reason, the SCR is checked during an Ofsted visit. Ark Charter Academy are aware that an incomplete SCR may fail their Ofsted as the school has failed to demonstrate how it keeps children safe.

The SCR for Ark Charter Academy has been set up on Bromcom/ ScholarPack. It comprises of the following pre employment checks:

- enhanced DBS disclosures;
- Barred list check(for staff in working regulated activity only);
- Prohibition Order Check (teaching staff)
- right to work;
- identity;
- Professional qualifications, including Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and prohibition orders check for teachers (may be required for some support staff posts);
- two references, one being most recent line manager
- signed Childcare Disqualification declaration form, where applicable.
- overseas criminal record (if applicable);
- medical
- Section 128 check (for management positions)
- Safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education Training (once in employment)

A non- employee SCR spreadsheet must be maintained covering as necessary the required information as above for governors, volunteers, ATT Bursary Trainees, supply, contractors such as Sports Coaches and visitors. Information including records of all letters and vetting policies confirming that each agency staff, contractor and others who fit this category has completed the

required vetting checks is a requirement of this spreadsheet as they have regular contact with pupils.

Ark Charter Academy follow [Statutory guidance](#) from the Department for Education that under the [Childcare \(Disqualification\) and Childcare \(Early Years Provision Free of Charge\) \(Extended Entitlement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#), some individuals are disqualified from providing childcare or being “directly concerned” in the management of childcare provision if they have committed certain criminal offences.

The disqualification criteria include being on the Disclosure and Barring Service children’s barred list and being found to have committed certain violent and sexual offences against children and adults.

Schools are prohibited from employing a disqualified person in early years provision (for children aged up to and including reception age) both during and outside of school hours, and later years provision (for children under 8) provided outside of school hours only. This also applies to volunteers and 'casual workers', whether supervised or not.

Ark Charter Academy requires staff and others working in settings specified above are not disqualified from doing so under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/794/contents/made>

Ark Charter Academy **staff** (as appropriate to school setting) **are required to sign the declaration, confirming that you are not disqualified under those Regulations from working Ark Charter Academy. Failure to complete the form may result in withdrawal of staff offer of employment.**

The Principal/Head of school/DSL must ensure that a disqualified person is not permitted to continue to work in a setting providing care for children under age 8, unless they apply for and are granted a waiver from OFSTED.

The Principal/Head of School/DSL will apply appropriate judgement regarding the need to supervise and escort visitors and will provide them with appropriate safeguarding information.

It is agreed that all governors will undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Scheme check. Further statutory procedures for checking the suitability of staff, volunteers and professionals who work with children see Appendix D of this policy.

More information on Safer Recruitment can also be found in KCSIE ‘21 Part three, and in relation to the network approach can be found in The Recruitment and Appointment policy. Appendix D of this policy and the school approach in Appendix A of this policy.

18. Allegations made against/ Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors’.

Ark Charter Academy recognises that it is possible for staff and volunteers to behave in a way that might cause harm to children and takes seriously any allegation received.

We understand that on occasions pupils may make allegations against a member of staff however, staff should also take care not to place themselves in a vulnerable position with a pupil where an allegation can be made. If such an allegation is made, the member of staff receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Principal or Regional Director where there is an allegation against the Principal. If the Principal/Head of school is not present, the most senior teacher present **must** then ensure that the Regional Director, Head of Safeguarding and HR Business Partner are informed as a matter of urgency.

Ark Charter Academy ensure that anything that constitutes an allegation/low level concern, against a member of staff, volunteer, supply teacher or professional will be dealt with under the specific **‘Procedure for Managing Allegations made against/ Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors’**. This procedure will be case managed by the Principal. All allegations and

concerns must be logged on Impero EdAware by the Principal or Head of School as either meeting threshold (LADO referral) or a low-level concern not meeting threshold.

The guidance in KCSIE (Part Four) should be followed and read in conjunction with Ark procedure on managing allegations of abuse against teachers, supply, volunteers, staff and professionals, where it is alleged that any of the above roles working in the school or activity that provides education for children under 18 years of age, has:

- 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 he or she may pose a risk of harm to children or to a particular child;
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

The Designated Officer (LADO) must be informed of all allegations that come to the school's attention and appear to meet the criteria to discuss the content of the allegation.

Low-level concerns should be recorded in writing, including:

- name* of individual sharing their concerns
- details of the concern
- context in which the concern arose
- action taken

(If the individual wishes to remain anonymous then that should be respected as far as reasonably possible)

Records must be kept confidential, held securely and comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and is recommended that it is kept at least until the individual leaves their employment.

Records should be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified.

If a concerning pattern of behaviour is identified and now meets the criteria for an allegation, then the matter should be referred to the LADO.

The records' review might identify that there are wider cultural issues within the school or college that enabled the behaviour to occur. This might mean that policies or processes could be revised or extra training delivered to minimise the risk of it happening again.

The People Business Partner should also be informed as soon as possible on any allegations which meet the criteria as defined above against staff so that they can provide advice.

Ark Charter Academy also refer to 'Developing and implementing a low-level concerns policy' (Farrer & Co) <https://www.farrer.co.uk/globalassets/clients-and-sectors/safeguarding/low-level-concerns-guidance-2020.pdf>

Further information in relation to the Ark procedure on 'Managing Allegations made against/ Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors' can be found in Appendix A of this policy and KCSIE 2021 Part four.

19. WHISTLEBLOWING

A whistleblowing disclosure must be about something that affects the general public such as:

- a criminal offence has been committed, is being committed or is likely to be committed
- a legal obligation has been breached
- there has been a miscarriage of justice
- the health or safety of any individual has been endangered
- the environment has been damaged
- information about any of the above has been concealed.

All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and the senior leadership team will always take such concerns seriously.

All members of staff are made aware of the school's Whistleblowing procedure and that it is a disciplinary offence not to report concerns about the conduct of a colleague that could place a child, young person or vulnerable adult at risk.

Decisions never have to be taken in isolation considerations should be given to consult with the [Ark Whistleblowing Policy](#)

The NSPCC runs a whistleblowing helpline on behalf of the government. Members of Staff can also access this helpline if they do not feel able to raise concerns regarding failures internally. Staff can call: **0800 028 0285** (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday to Friday) or email: help@nspcc.org.uk.

20. PEER ON PEER /CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE (*Allegations of abuse made against other children*)

At Ark Charter Academy all staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse), and that it can happen both inside and outside of school and online.

At Ark Charter Academy It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of peer on peer abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports.

All staff should be clear as to the school's policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse and the important role they have to play in preventing it and responding where they believe a child may be at risk from it.

At Ark Charter Academy we will support the victims of peer on peer /child on child abuse.

All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports in their school it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such it is important if staff have any concerns regarding peer on peer abuse, they should speak to their designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

It is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

Peer on peer abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- 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 nudes 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;
- 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).

Further information about peer on peer /child on child abuse including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to peer on peer /child on child abuse can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos

- In cases of sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images we follow the advice: Sharing nude and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (Dec 2020)
- This advice uses the term 'sharing nudes and semi-nudes' to mean the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams by young people under the age of 18 online. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or forums. It could also involve sharing between devices via services like Apple's AirDrop which works offline.

Further information about **Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images and/or videos** including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach can be found in Appendix A of this policy and in the school's Behaviour Management, Anti-bullying, and digital safety/awareness guidance.

Up-skirting

Ark Charter Academy recognises 'Up-skirting' as a criminal offence under changes to the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 which criminalise 'up-skirting'. This refers to the act of placing equipment such as a camera or mobile phone beneath a person's clothing to take a voyeuristic photograph without their permission.

Further information about up-skirting is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to up-skirting can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

21. SEXUAL VIOLENCE and SEXUAL HARASSMENT BETWEEN CHILDREN in SCHOOLS

Ark Charter Academy recognise that staff should read Part five (KCSIE '21) alongside the Departmental advice: Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges.

At Ark Charter Academy all staff are aware of sexual violence and Sexual Harassment and that it can happen here.

At Ark Charter Academy all staff are aware that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way from primary to secondary stage and into colleges. It may exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally). It can happen both inside and outside of school. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. At <Academy name> in whichever form it takes it is never acceptable.

At Ark Charter Academy all staff understand that children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) attend Ark Charter Academy.

At Ark Charter Academy All staff understand when referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual violence offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:

Rape: A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Assault by Penetration: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (Schools should be aware that sexual assault covers a very wide range of behaviour so a single act of kissing someone without consent or touching someone's bottom/breasts/genitalia without consent, can still constitute sexual assault.)

Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally causes another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (This could include forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.)

All staff understand when referring to Sexual Harassment include:

- **Unwanted conduct of a sexual nature**
- **including sexual remarks**
- **sexual taunts**
- **physical behaviour or**
- **online sexual harassment**

At Ark Charter Academy all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. Staff are aware that some groups are potentially more at risk and that evidence shows girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT children are at greater risk.

Ark Charter Academy staff are aware of the importance of:

- challenging inappropriate behaviours and dismissing or tolerating such behaviours due to risks of normalising them.
- making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and,
- challenging physical behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts.

Ark Charter Academy protects all pupils and engage social care, support services and the police as required. Whilst the criminal age of responsibility is ten, schools should nonetheless report incidents of peer-on-peer abuse involving children younger than ten to the police where appropriate, who will adopt a welfare rather than a criminal response.

All staff must recognise that a child abusing another child may have been abused themselves; therefore, the need may be to support the alleged perpetrator.

Full advice and guidance can be found in: Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges (SVSH), May 2018. Further information about Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment is included in KCSIE '21 Part 5 & Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

22. SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Ark Charter Academy staff should be aware of the indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime.

These may include:

- increased absence from school,
- a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups,
- a significant decline in performance,
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing,
- signs of assault or unexplained injuries.

Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

Ark Charter Academy should be aware of the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as:

- being male,
- having been frequently absent or permanently excluded from school,
- having experienced child maltreatment
- having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

Advice for schools is provided in the Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement and its Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines guidance.

Further information about serious crime is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to serious crime can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

23. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) or CERTAIN HEALTH CONDITIONS

Ark Charter Academy acknowledges that children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges as they may have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse. They may have speech, language and communication needs, which may make it difficult to tell others what is happening, may be abused more than their abled peers, may find it difficult to express their views, needs and opinions, could be a PA student or parent elects to home educate.

Ark Charter Academy will ensure that children with SEN and disabilities, specifically those with communication difficulties will be supported to ensure that their voice is heard and acted upon.

Members of staff are encouraged to be aware that children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by safeguarding concerns such as bullying. All members of staff will be encouraged to appropriately explore possible indicators of abuse such as behaviour/mood change or injuries and not to assume that they are related to the child's disability and be aware that children with SEN and disabilities may not always outwardly display indicators of abuse.

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges because:

- there may be assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration
- children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying without outwardly showing any signs; and
- difficulties may arise in overcoming communication barriers.

At Ark Charter Academy we identify pupils who might need more support to be kept safe or to keep themselves safe.

Childnet - STAR SEND Toolkit equips, enables and empowers our staff with the knowledge they need to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Further information in relation to the school's approach to SEND can be found in Appendix A policy.

24. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Ark Charter Academy recognise that most children living in care are kept safe from harm. However, a small number remain at risk of abuse or neglect. Children may enter care for all sorts of reasons but most enter because they have been abused or neglected. These experiences can leave children with complex emotional and mental health needs.

Many children also move repeatedly in and out of care, or between placements. This can prevent them from forming stable relationships with the staff, adults and peers.

A previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously LAC safe.

Schools must appoint a Designated Teacher for LAC who has responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of registered pupils who are looked after and certain previously looked after children.

The Designated Teacher for LAC will maintain details of the child's social worker and information of the virtual school head in the authority.

The Virtual Headteacher has responsibility to promote the education of children who have a social worker and should liaise closely with the Designated Teacher for LAC and DSL on how this is implemented at school level.

Further information in relation to the school's approach to LAC and Previously LAC can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

25. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

All staff at Ark Charter Academy 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.

Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Education 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.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education.

Ark Charter Academy can access a range of advice to help them identify children in need of extra mental health support, this includes working with external agencies. More information can be found in the mental health and behaviour in schools guidance. The academy may also wish to follow this guidance as best practice. Public Health England has produced a range of resources to support secondary school teachers to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience among children.

All staff at Ark Charter Academy are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect, exploitation or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences that can leave them vulnerable to further harm.

School staff are not expected or trained to diagnose mental health conditions or issues but may notice behaviours that may be of concern.

Exam or assessment time can also be a time when children experience increased levels of stress and may need extra emotional support; as well as being educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, learning and behaviour.

Where staff have a mental health concern about a child that may also be a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken in reporting this concern to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.

The DSL will ensure at induction and through regular training that staff are aware of the processes for reporting and escalating concerns about mental health. If a member of staff has a concern about the mental health of a pupil, they should speak to the DSL in the first instance.

The DSL may instigate the completion of a mental health 'Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)' to assess the child's behaviour which is produced by the DfE non-statutory advice for schools in England Mental health and behaviour in schools (DfE, 2018).

The government guidance: Preventing and Tackling Bullying, and Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools and the Rise Above resources underpin our work to safeguard our pupils' mental health.

Further information about Mental Health including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to peer on peer /child on child abuse can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

26. ONLINE SAFETY

It is recognised by Ark Charter Academy that the use of technology presents particular challenges and risks to children and adults both inside and outside of school.

Ark Charter Academy identifies that the issues classified within online safety are considerable, but can be broadly categorised into three areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes harm

Ark Charter Academy therefore has a responsibility for the following:

Staff Training

- Ensure that all staff receive regular and updated safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) at least once a year (at minimum during induction) (* DFE Guidance).
- Ensure that in addition to induction training, all staff receive regular online safety (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings) as required to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively (*DFE Guidance).

Filtering and Monitoring

- Ensure appropriate filters and monitoring of devices. Whilst it is essential to ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place, Ark Charter Academy will be careful that “over blocking” does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught (*DFE Guidance).
- Ensure robust safeguarding support and follow up is in place to act on any issues raised from the filtering and monitoring process

Delivery of a well-planned online safety curriculum

- It is crucial that pupils learn to balance the benefits offered by technology with a critical awareness of their own and other's online behavior and develop effective strategies for staying safe and making a positive contribution online. Ark Charter Academy will integrate opportunities into the curriculum for every pupil to learn about the following key areas of Digital Awareness and Resilience (as identified in the UKCIS 2020 Framework)
 - a. Self-image and identity
 - b. Online relationships
 - c. Online reputation
 - d. Online bullying
 - e. Managing online information
 - f. Health, well-being and lifestyle
 - g. Privacy and security
 - h. Copyright and ownership

There are different situations in which pupils access the internet. The table below clarifies the different levels of protection that Ark Charter Academy will ensure is in place.

Scenario	Protection
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Pupils on a school device in school (including their Chromebook)	When pupils use the school's network to access the internet, they are protected from inappropriate content by our filtering systems. Ark Charter Academy needs to maintain a Safeguarding Monitoring tool.
Pupils on their Chromebook outside of school	When pupils use their school-provided Chromebook to access the internet outside of the school's network, they are still protected from inappropriate content by our filtering systems. Ark Charter Academy needs to maintain a Safeguarding Monitoring tool.
Pupils on a personal device using the school's internet	When pupils use the school's wireless system on personal devices their internet traffic is filtered to prevent accessing inappropriate content.
Pupils on personal devices using their own data plan, or public Wi-Fi	Schools can limit the use of personal devices through local policies, there are no technical controls to protect pupils on their own device in this situation.

Ark Charter Academy will ensure that the pupils are informed of how to access online learning safely while out of school. Home school agreement.

Further information about Online safety/resilience including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to Online safety/resilience can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

27. MOBILE PHONES AND CAMERAS

We recognise that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore Ark Charter Academy has developed a guidance to outline the required protocol for all employees, pupils, supply, volunteers, governors and parents/carers. Staff, volunteers, parents **must not** use personal phones or devices to take pictures of pupils while in the school environment or on educational visits.

For further information on the use of mobile phones, cameras and sharing of images please see Ark IT Acceptable Use Agreement.

28. CHILDREN WITH A SOCIAL WORKER

At Ark Charter Academy we recognise that when a child has a social worker, it is an indicator that the child is more at risk than most pupils.

This may mean that they are more vulnerable to further harm, as well as facing educational barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and poor mental health.

We take these needs into account when making plans to support pupils who have a social worker.

Further information in relation to the school's approach to support pupils with a social worker can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

29. CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION

Knowing where children are during school hours is an extremely important aspect of Safeguarding. Missing school can be an indicator of abuse and neglect and may also raise concerns about others safeguarding issues, including the criminal exploitation of children.

At Ark Charter Academy we monitor attendance carefully and address poor or irregular attendance without delay.

At Ark Charter Academy we follow the Ark **School leavers management and statutory guidance** and ensure our processes keep track of students leaving our school for any reason and offer better support management of any at risk cases.

At Ark Charter Academy when pupils leave, we make sure leavers are correctly processed through the MIS and visible on our systems and record the name of the pupil's new school and their expected start date.

We will always follow up with parents/carers when pupils are not at school. This means we need to have a least two up to date contacts numbers for parents/carers. Parents should remember to update the school as soon as possible if the numbers change.

In response to the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) the school has:

1. Staff who understand what to do when children do not attend regularly
2. Appropriate policies, procedures and responses for pupils who go missing from education (especially on repeat occasions).
3. Staff who know the signs and triggers for travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.
4. Procedures to inform the local authority when we plan to take pupils off-roll when they:
 - a. leave school to be home educated
 - b. move away from the school's location
 - c. remain medically unfit beyond compulsory school age
 - d. are in custody for four months or more (and will not return to school afterwards); or
 - e. are permanently excluded
 - f. Covid-19 related non- attendance

We will ensure that pupils who are expected to attend the school but fail to take up the place will be referred to the local authority.

Further information about CME including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to peer on peer /child on child abuse can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

30. COUNTER TERRORISM AND SECURITY ACT 2015 (The Prevent Duty)

As part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, schools have a duty to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism'. This has become known as the 'Prevent Duty'.

Where staff are concerned that children and young people are developing extremist views or show signs of becoming radicalised, they should discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has received training about the Prevent Duty and tackling extremism and is able to support staff with any concerns they may have. The DSL will consider the level of risk and decide which agency this concern should be referred. This could include [Channel guidance](#), the government's programme for identifying and supporting individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

The Department for Education also has a dedicated telephone helpline, 020 7340 7264, that staff and governors can call to raise concerns about extremism with respect to a pupil. In an emergency, call 999 or the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321

At Ark Charter Academy we use the curriculum to ensure that children and young people understand how people with extreme views share these with others, especially using the internet. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced

curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. Teaching the school's core values alongside the fundamental British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Further information about the Prevent Duty and to Prevent Radicalisation including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to the Prevent Duty and to Prevent Radicalisation can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

31. CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

The statutory definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) can be found in the guidance document *Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners* (DfE 2017)

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

Further information about CSE including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to CSE can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

32. CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE)

Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to.

It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

Further information about CCE including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to CCE can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

33. COUNTY LINES

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line".

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

Further information about County lines including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to County lines can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

34. DOMESTIC ABUSE

The statutory definition, for Domestic Abuse can be found in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Definition

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 1) defines domestic abuse as any of the following behaviours, either as a pattern of behaviour, or as a single incident, between two people over the age of 16, who are 'personally connected' to each other:

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) economic abuse (adverse effect of the victim to acquire, use or maintain money or other property; or obtain goods or services); and
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse.

People are 'personally connected' when they are or have been married to each other or civil partners; or have agreed to marry or become civil partners. If the two people have been in an intimate relationship with each other, have shared parental responsibility for the same child, or they are relatives.

The definition of Domestic Abuse applies to children if they see or hear, or experience the effects of, the abuse; and they are related to the abusive person.

(The definition can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/part/1/enacted>)

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual identity, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home.

At Ark Charter Academy we are part of Operation Encompass.

The National Domestic Abuse helpline can be called free of charge and in confidence, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Further information about Domestic Abuse including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to Domestic Abuse can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

35. HONOUR BASED ABUSE (HBA)

So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of so called HBA are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such.

Where staff are concerned that a child might be at risk of HBA, they must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead as a matter of urgency.

Further information about 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

36. FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Female genital mutilation refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK.

FGM typically takes place between birth and around 15 years old; however, it is believed that in the majority of cases, this happens between the ages of 5 and 8.

Risk factors for FGM include:

- low level of integration into UK society
- mother or a sister who has undergone FGM
- girls who are withdrawn from PSHE
- visiting female elder from the country of origin
- being taken on a long holiday to the country of origin
- talk about a 'special' procedure to become a woman

Whilst all staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) with regard to any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific legal duty on teachers.

If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must report this to the police.

Further information about 'FGM including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to FGM can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

37. 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, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and stepparents. It does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

Parents and private foster carers both have a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence.

All staff are aware that there is a mandatory duty to inform the local authority of children in such arrangements.

On admission to the school, we will take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the child who is being registered.

Further information about 'private fostering' including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to 'private fostering' can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

38. CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

At Ark Charter Academy we work closely with children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships to engage with individuals and sectors

who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors.

At Ark Charter Academy all staff assess the risks and issues in the wider community when considering the well-being and safety of its pupils.

Further information about 'Contextual safeguarding including definitions and indicators is included in KCSIE '21 Annex B and in relation to the school's approach to Contextual safeguarding can be found in Appendix A of this policy

39. CURRICULUM AND STAYING SAFE

Ark Charter Academy recognise that schools play an essential role in helping children to understand and identify the parameters of what is appropriate child and adult behaviour; what is 'safe'; to recognise when they and others close to them are not safe; and how to seek advice and support when they are concerned.

At Ark Charter Academy pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online, through various teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. Children are taught to recognise when they are at risk and how to get help when they need it.

Ark Charter Academy will use the curriculum to provide opportunities for increasing self-awareness, self-esteem, social and emotional understanding, assertiveness and decision making so that students have a range of contacts and strategies to ensure their own protection and understand the importance of protecting others. This will include online safety.

Ark Charter Academy pupils will be educated at a level appropriate to their age and ability about a range of safeguarding concerns through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), tutorials (if appropriate) and through sex and relationship education (RSE). This will include, but is not limited, to bullying (including cyber bullying), radicalisation, child sexual exploitation (CSE), stranger danger, road safety, sexual abuse, neglect, online safety, peer on peer bullying, sexual violence, sexual harassments and Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes images.

Ark Charter Academy PSHE curriculum and Relationship Education, pupils will be taught the knowledge they need to recognise and report abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse. This will be delivered in a sensitive way focusing on boundaries and privacy, ensuring young people understand they have rights over their bodies. This will include understanding boundaries with their peers, friendships and families in all contexts including online. Pupils should know who to report concerns and seek advice when they suspect or know something is wrong.

The delivery of RHSE is monitored by SLT and the subject lead. Pupils' development in RHSE is monitored by teachers as part of internal assessment systems. Pupils will reflect on their own work and their voice will be influential in adapting and amending school curriculum design. Any concerns raised by pupils within discussions or through the delivery of the curriculum must be logged and reported to the DSL.

Ark Charter Academy RSHE/PSHE policy must be made available on school website.

Further information in relation to the school's approach to curriculum, Relationship education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education and staying safe can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

40. THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Ark Charter Academy should ensure when hire or rent out of school facilities/premises to organisations or individuals (for example to community groups, sports associations, and

service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities) that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe.

When services or activities are provided under the direct supervision or management of Ark Charter Academy staff, their arrangements for child protection will apply.

Where services or activities are provided separately by another body using the school premises, the Principal/Head of School will seek written assurance that the organisation concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place with regard to safeguarding children and child protection and that relevant safeguarding checks have been made in respect of staff and volunteers (including inspecting these as needed); and ensure that there are arrangements in place to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

Safeguarding requirements should also be included in any transfer of control agreement (i.e. lease or hire agreement), as a condition of use and occupation of the premises; and that failure to comply with this would lead to termination of the agreement.

All external services using school premises will adhere to the school's lettings agreement. If this assurance is not achieved, then an application to use premises will be refused.

School to seek advice from their Regional Facilities Manager.

41. SECURITY

All members of staff have a responsibility for maintaining awareness of buildings and grounds security and for reporting concerns that may become known. Ark Charter Academy operate within a whole-school community ethos and welcome comments from students, parents and others about areas that may need improvement as well as what we are doing well.

Appropriate checks will be undertaken in respect of visitors and volunteers coming into school as outlined within guidance. Visitors will be expected to sign in and out via the school's visitors log system and to display a visitor's badge whilst on school site. Any individual who is not known or identifiable should be challenged for clarification and reassurance.

The school will not accept the behaviour of any individual (parent or other) that threatens school staff /security or leads others (child or adult) to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse access for that individual onto the school site.

Further information in relation to the school's approach to security and summary on Coping with a school emergency can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

42. PROCEDURE IN THE CASE OF A COMPULSORY CLOSURE/COVID

CONTINGENCY

In the case of the school being closed due to a compulsory full or partial closure, the school should follow their Coping with a school emergency protocol outlined in their guidance. At Ark Charter Academy we ensure that our high level of vigilance and surveillance continues at all times during any emergency to safeguard our pupils.

Principals and DSLs are required to read and implement the Ark Charter Academy **Outbreak Management Plan** and related guidance and risk assessments attached to safeguarding measures as a result of Covid '19.

In addition, at Ark Charter Academy we will provide a risk assessment relating to the care of vulnerable pupils to ensure that they continue to receive the best possible care.

Further information in relation to the school's approach in case of a compulsory closure or emergency can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

43. ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (AP) /MANAGED MOVES

At Ark Charter Academy we are responsible for the safeguarding of our pupils when they are placed in an alternative provision or arranging a managed move.

There are different situations in which pupils are placed in an alternative provision, schools can use such provision to try to prevent exclusions, or to re-engage pupils in their education, or to improve behaviour.

At Ark Charter Academy when it is decided to place a pupil at an AP we will ensure:

- non-registered provisions **should not** be used
- carefully considering the provision for vulnerable pupils or pupils where there are any safeguarding concerns at home, pupils with an EHCP, certain health conditions or LAC.
- to carry out a risk assessment on the alternative provisions.
- use of the provision should be time-limited (i.e. review regularly, clear timescales)
- to obtain written confirmation from the AP provider that they have completed all the vetting and barring checks that are necessary on their staff.
- To appoint designated teacher at school to track pupil progress and to make sure the pupil is attending daily, completing work and accessing tutors when necessary.
- It should be really clear at the commissioning meeting, and put in writing, where the day-to-day responsibility is going to lie in locating a missing pupil.
- Outside of the safeguarding remit, schools should also have a sense of how the alternative provider is helping the young person with their personal development.

Managed move is a voluntary agreement between schools, parents/carers and a pupil, for that pupil to change school or educational programme under controlled circumstances. A managed move is different to the power of a school to direct a pupil off-site for the improvement of their behaviour.

At Ark Charter Academy when it is agreed to arrange a managed move placement for a pupil we follow our managed move protocol. As schools have to rely on the safeguarding procedures of the new school, at Ark Charter Academy we ensure that the managed move protocol of the new school/borough has a safeguarding paragraph, the policy and training of staff is adequate and these checks are completed before a child moves to the new school.

Under the Education Inspection Framework Sept 2019, school is aware that in their pre-inspection phone call, Ofsted will ask how many alternative providers does the school use, and how many children are placed there. Inspectors may visit AP's and assess their safeguarding procedures, the quality of education and how effectively the provision helps to improve pupil's behaviour, learning, attendance and safeguarding.

Further information in relation to the school's approach to Alternative provision and AP risk assessments and schools managed move protocol. can be found in Appendix A of this policy.

44. LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

All members of staff at Ark Charter Academy are made aware of the local, regional and national support available.

Further information in relation to a list of local, regional and national support services can be found in Appendix A of this policy and within KCSIE 2021 - Additional advice, information & support pgs. 140-142 and 150-152.

45. SCHOOL LOCAL PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES –Appendix A-D

Schools are required to insert in:

APPENDIX A of this policy requires school to clearly state the school's approach and what is done at Ark Charter Academy.

- ✓ Localised school safeguarding procedures
- ✓ School protocols and guidance documents (or links to)

- ✓ LA Safeguarding Partnership arrangements (or links to)
- Updated from LA and safeguarding partners regarding:
 - ECHP
 - CIN
 - reporting mechanisms,
 - referral mechanisms
- ✓ You should state your LA's Designated safeguarding officer (LADO)
- ✓ Children's social workers/Team

their localised school procedure, school approaches, practice, protocols and guidance documents or links to documents specific to their school and LA Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.

Each school may wish to include documentation or links to documentation in addition to the summaries of each area.

APPENDIX B contains statutory legislation and guidance and other documents and links to those documents related to safeguarding in schools. Details of other statutory guidance is available within Impero EdAware recording tool.

APPENDIX C contains documents or links to those documents highlighted in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2021) Annex B, as being specific forms of abuse and safeguarding issues.

APPENDIX D contains the network Recruitment and Appointment Policy 2021-24 which is relevant to safeguarding as it covers selection and vetting processes.

APPENDIX A

Ark Charter Academy school approach and summaries covering **localised school procedure, practice and guidance documents and /or links to documents**

Protection, wider safeguarding and curriculum

Signs and symptoms of Abuse and neglect

Definitions

Working together to safeguard children 2018 defines a **child** as anyone who has not yet reached his/her 18th birthday.

Ark Charter uses the definition of 'abuse' as described in "Keeping children safe in education 2021" *a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.*

Physical abuse: 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.

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 from 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.

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, for example, as a result 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.

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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Teachers and other adults in Ark Charter Academy are well placed to observe any physical, emotional or behavioural signs which indicate that a child may be suffering significant harm. The

relationships between staff, pupils, parents and the public which foster respect, confidence and trust can lead to disclosures of abuse, and/or Ark Charter staff being alerted to concerns. Staff must be aware that there is a greater risk for students on the SEN register and LAC as well as students who were previously a LAC.

Signs of possible abuse

The following list is not prescriptive, and many signs listed will not necessarily indicate abuse. They can only act as a guide:

- Unexplained injuries, bruising etc...
- Absences from Ark Charter that do not have a reasonable explanation or exhibit a suspicious pattern,
- Significant change of behaviour
- Watchful cautious response to adults
- Inability to be spontaneous
- Aggressive or abusive
- Bullying other children or being bullied
- Underachieving, unable to concentrate
- Avoiding the removal of clothing in PE, etc.
- Truancy, lying or stealing
- Inability to trust others and make friends.

Potential indicators of sexual abuse:

- Loss of self-esteem
- Significant lack of self-care i.e. dirty clothing
- Inappropriate use of sexual talk or sexualised behaviour
- Wetting/soiling
- Fearful of physical contact
- Eating disorders, substance/drug use, cutting, etc.

Attendance/Children Missing from Education /Leavers guidance

All staff should be aware that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities.

This may include the following:

- abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation.
- mental health problems
- risk of substance abuse,
- risk of travelling to conflict zones,
- risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage.

Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Ark Charter staff should follow the procedures via the Attendance Officer for unauthorised absence and any child who could be missing in education. Ark Charter has a leavers procedure which must be followed to ensure that any child is not removed from roll until confirmation of enrolment in another school has been received. Home address and school information is checked prior to any child being recorded as leaving.

Dealing with Disclosures

Disclosures or information may be received from students, parents or others. Ark Charter recognises that those who disclose such information may do so with difficulty, having chosen carefully to whom they will speak. Accordingly, all staff will handle disclosures with sensitivity. Such information cannot remain confidential and staff will immediately communicate what they have been told to the DSL or DDSL and make a contemporaneous record.

Staff

If a student makes a disclosure to a member of staff, the member of staff should:

- listen to what is said without displaying shock or disbelief and accept what the child is saying
- allow the child to talk freely
- reassure the child but not make promises that it may not be possible to keep, or promise confidentiality, as a referral may have to be made to children's social care
- reassure the child that what has happened is not their fault and that they were right to tell someone
- not ask direct questions but allow the child to tell their story
- not criticise the alleged perpetrator
- explain what will happen next and who has to be told

Make a formal record and pass this on to the DSL and DDSL via EdAware.

Action by the DSL or DDSL

Following any information raising concern, the senior designated person will consider:

- any urgent medical needs of the child,
- discussing the matter with other agencies involved with the family,
- consulting with appropriate persons e.g. Safeguarding Lead, Portsmouth Social Care (MASH), Channel
- the student's wishes.

Then decide, in accordance with the procedures or advice of the LA safeguarding children's board:

- where possible to talk to parents, **unless** to do so may place a student at risk of significant harm, impede any police investigation and/or place the member of staff or others at risk;
- whether to make a child protection referral to children's social care because a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and if this needs to be undertaken immediately;

OR:

- not to make a referral at this stage;
- if further monitoring is necessary; or
- if it would be appropriate to undertake an assessment and/or make a referral for other services.
- These services can include Early Help, which can provide voluntary support to families

All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented. Any referrals to children's social care will be accompanied by a standard referral form.

Action by the DSL/ DDSL if in relation to Prevent

If the disclosure is in relation to extremist views or actions, the DSL or DDSL will initiate a process as follows:

- gather all relevant detail from the referrer and discuss with the designated safeguarding officer to understand any broader safeguarding concerns and links
- seek advice from the Portsmouth Prevent Co-Ordinator at the local authority
- action may take the form of the following:
 - speak to the student about the concerns and evaluate whether further cause for concern is necessary
 - put a support package in place to address concerns in-house using approved resources and monitor
- when further concern is flagged, or at the advice of the Portsmouth Prevent Co-Ordinator, a referral might be made to the Channel Panel

- in accordance with the Channel process, the following actions may be taken:
 - Channel Panel sometimes do a background check on the student to see if any pre-existing concerns are present.
 - information about concerns are given to the Channel Panel by the DSL or DDSL to discuss at the first meeting. This takes a multi-agency approach to offer ways to support the student, family and Ark Charter in working through extremist ideologies.
 - agreed support is put in place and monitored by the DSL or DDSL

N.B (1): *In the early stages it is important to note that parents/guardians are informed when Prevent related discussions are had with students and no Channel process can take place without the consent of parents/guardians.*

N.B (2): *The DSL/ DDSL at Ark Charter will be present in all Channel meetings to ensure the best interests of the student are always at the heart of the discussion.*

N.B (3): *The whole process is recorded in writing and will go on the student's file via EdAware purely as a record for safeguarding; this will be confidential to the school and only shared with the local Prevent team should the need arise. This record will not be used in any future referencing or disadvantage the student in any way.*

Action following a Child Protection referral

The DSL or DDSL will:

- make regular contact with the social worker involved/Channel officer to stay informed
- wherever possible, attend strategy discussion meetings
- provide a report for, attend and contribute to any subsequent Child Protection Conference or Channel Panel;
- if the child or children are placed on the Child Protection Register, contribute to the Child Protection Plan and attend Core Group Meetings and Review Child Protection Conferences;
- where a child on the child protection register moves from Ark Charter or goes missing, immediately inform the key worker in the social care department.

Recording and monitoring

Accurate records will be made as soon as practicable and will clearly distinguish between observation, fact, opinion and hypothesis. All records will be dated.

All Child Protection documents will be retained in a 'Child Protection' file, separate from the child's main file. This will be only accessible to the Principal, DSL and DDSL. Anonymised records of all referrals will be made available to governors upon request.

Supporting the child and partnership with parents

- Ark Charter recognises that the child's welfare is paramount, and that good child protection practice and outcome rely on a positive, open and honest working partnership with parents.
- While, on occasion, we may need to make referrals without consultation with parents, we will make every effort to maintain a positive working relationship with them whilst fulfilling our duties to protect any child, acting with the advice of the local authority children's safeguarding board as appropriate.
- We will provide a secure, caring, supportive and protective relationship for the child.
- Children will be given a proper explanation (appropriate to age & understanding) of what action is being taken on their behalf and why.
- We will endeavour always to preserve the privacy, dignity and right to confidentiality of the child and parents. The DSL will determine which members of staff need to know personal information and what they need to know to support and protect the child

Child sexual exploitation (CSE): Signs and symptoms/school approach

Children rarely self-report child sexual exploitation so it is important that practitioners are aware of potential indicators of risk, including:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones etc without plausible explanation;
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;

- Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
- Frequenting areas known for sex work;
- Concerning use of internet or other social media;
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.
- Staff must report to the DSL/ DDSL immediately via Edaware.

Child criminal exploitation (CCE): Signs and symptoms

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation
- children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education

County Lines: Signs and symptoms

Drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns.

Going missing for short periods from home or having unpredictable attendance/ punctuality at school could be a key indicator. The signs and symptoms are the same as CCE.

Children and the court system

Children are sometime required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed.

Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and trench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children.

The DSL or DDSL will support any student who is required to go to court.

Children with family members in prison

NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children. Ark Charter will work closely with any student and their family if they have a parent or other family member incarcerated.

Homelessness

If any student and their family declare that they are homeless or are in the process of becoming homeless the DSL or DDSL will support the family.

Female genital mutilation & mandatory reporting of FGM: Signs and symptoms

- Holiday requests made to school for significant lengths of time (Pre- warning)
- Long periods of time away from the classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems
- Avoidance of P.E.

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Prolonged absences from school
- Noticeable behaviour changes
- Withdrawal
- Depression
- Recurrent Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) or complaints of abdominal pain

If any member of staff suspects a case of FGM they must report this to the DSL or DDSL via EdAware immediately and ensure that the DSL/DDSL reports this directly to the Police.

Duties under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (The ‘Prevent Duty’): Signs and symptoms/school approach

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child’s vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet).

Extremism: is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Radicalisation: refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Staff should use EdAware to report any student who they suspect could be vulnerable to radicalisation. In addition if a student is making extremist remarks this should be followed up via EdAware also.

Peer on peer /child on child abuse: Signs and symptoms

Signs that a child may be suffering from peer-on-peer abuse can also overlap with those indicating other types of abuse and can include:

- failing to attend school, disengaging from classes or struggling to carry out school related tasks to the standard ordinarily expected,
- physical injuries,
- experiencing difficulties with mental health and/or emotional wellbeing,
- becoming withdrawn and/or shy; experiencing headaches, stomach aches, anxiety and/or panic attacks; suffering from nightmares or lack of sleep or sleeping too much,
- broader changes in behaviour including alcohol or substance misuse,
- changes in appearance and/or starting to act in a way that is not appropriate for the child’s age, and
- abusive behaviour towards others

Instances of peer-on-peer abuse must be reported to the DSL via EdAware. The DSL will work with the Senior Leadership Team to investigate the allegations and determine an outcome.

Up skirting

‘Upskirting’ typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is now a criminal offence.

Once a member of staff logs this on EdAware the DSL or DDSL will conduct an internal investigation to establish the facts.

Serious violence: Signs and symptoms /school approach

- increased absence from school
- a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups
- a significant decline in performance
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing or signs of assault or unexplained injuries.

- Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

Students who are at risk from CCE, CSE or peer on peer abuse could show signs of serious violence. Staff should report and observations via EdAware.

Contextual safeguarding: Signs and symptoms /school approach

Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of Ark Charter and can occur between children who do not attend our academy. **All** staff, but especially the DSL and DDSLs should be considering the context with which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as contextual safeguarding, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. Children's social care assessments should consider such factors, so it is important that we provide as much information as possible as part of the referral process. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse.

Staff should remain vigilant even when commuting to/from the academy. If anything out of the ordinary is observed it should be reported via EdAware.

Non-collection of children

All students will be expected to make their own way home independently unless there is an agreement with the DSL or DDSL that the academy will hold student for collection. In this circumstance an agreement will be in place in regards to the expectations or parents/ guardians and the academy.

Supporting Transgender Pupils (Ark code of practice)

Supporting Transgender Pupils 2020-2022

Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:

- human trafficking
- slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour

An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation. If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the Single Competent Authority (SCA) can fully consider the case. You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim. The DSL will also complete a MASH referral.

Medicine & First Aid

Refer to Ark Charter Academy - Supporting pupils with medical conditions (2021 – 22)

<https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/send-and-medical>

Health & Safety

Ark Charter Academy meets the requirements of the annual Ark Health and Safety inspection. The site has regular risk-assessments to safeguard staff and students.

Educational visits/Transporting children on school activities

(Ark guidance) School Visits (2021-2022) - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Intimate care

Ark Intimate Care Policy (2020-2021) - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

SEND

Ark Charter is consciously aware that students who are on the SEND register are more vulnerable. Therefore, extra care will be taken to communicate with these students to support them throughout their time at the academy.

IT Acceptable Use Agreement (Ark policy)

ICT Policy and Acceptable Use Agreement 2021-2022 - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Whistleblowing (Ark policy)

Whistle blowing Policy - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Children/young people with Medical Needs

Care plans are written for students with additional medical needs. Students with medical needs are also more vulnerable to abuse, and their welfare and progress will be monitored frequently.

Responding to self-harm, suicide, mental health framework

Concerns regarding mental health, self-harm and suicidal ideation should be reported to the DSL or DDSL immediately and followed up via EdAware. The DSL or DDSL who will complete a risk assessment and involve other agencies as necessary. DSL or DDSL will contact SPOC.

Primary-Secondary transition /post 16 transition

All students will have a 1:1 induction call with a member of staff and will be invited to visit the academy for a transition day. Safeguarding information regarding incoming students is shared with Ark Charter Academy in advance of their arrival and, wherever possible, Ark Charter attends Child in Need and Child Protection meetings for students before they join. Where necessary, vulnerable students make additional visits to the school and are allocated a key worker to ensure their transition to secondary school is smooth.

Internet and /or Online Safety, digital awareness and resilience

Internet and online safety are factored in as part of Ark Charter's PSHCE curriculum. Assemblies will also take place to highlight the importance of keeping safe online.

Staff code of conduct

All staff will sign to indicate that they have received and read the staff handbook which has the code of conduct included.

Behaviour & Attitudes

Behaviour

Please see Ark Charter Academy Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy 2021-2022 <https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/behaviour-ethos>

Anti-Bullying procedure

Please see Ark Charter Academy Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy 2021-2022 <https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/behaviour-ethos>

Searching, screening and confiscation

When concern is raised that a child may be carrying an item that poses a risk to either themselves or others a decision may be taken to search the bag and pockets of an individual. Such searches will generally be undertaken with two members of staff present. Items of concern that are found may be confiscated.

Managing harmful behaviour of children who are vulnerable and/or have committed offences that may present a risk to others in a school setting (Ark Procedure)

(Ark guidance) Managing Harmful Behaviour of Children Guidance 2021-2022 - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Use of Reasonable force/Physical Intervention /Positive Handling

Please see Ark Charter Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy 2021-2022
<https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/behaviour-ethos>

Images/photography of pupils

Parents and students are asked to sign Ark Charter's Home School Agreement where parents agree/disagree to a photo of their child being taken by the academy for use internally or for promotional purposes either by the academy or a third party of the academy such as the local authority. Staff are not permitted to take photos on a personal device unless given permission by the DSL/DDSL.

Managing allegations against other pupils

Please see Ark Charter Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy 2021-2022
<https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/behaviour-ethos>

PSHE & Citizenship/Relationship & Sex Education (RSHE)/Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC)

Please see Ark Charter's PSHE Policy and SRE Policy
<https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/pshe>

Safety

School site security

Please refer to Ark Schools Health and Safety Policy 2021-2022 – please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Visitor Management

Visitors will be expected to sign in using InVentry, they will be given a lanyard indicating their level of clearance.

First aid and accidents

A first aider is always on duty to be called whenever needed. First aid incidents involving students are recorded on Bromcom. Serious accidents/incidents are reported to the necessary authorities.

Outdoor/educational visits for schools (Ark Code of Practice)

Outdoor Visits Code of Practice 2021 – 2022 - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Summary of school procedure for Coping with a school emergency/Emergency response plan

See Emergency response plan policy - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Managing Violence Code of Practice (Ark guidance)

Managing Violence Code of Practice 2021-2022 - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Alternative Provision Risk Assessments (Ark guidance)

Alternative Provision Risk Assessment - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Managed Move protocol

Please refer to Ark Charter's Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy
<https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/behaviour-ethos>

HR & Governance

Safer recruitment and appointment 2021-23

Please see Ark Charter's Recruitment Policy - - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Complaint's policy (Ark Policy)

Complaints Policy 2021-2022 - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Data protection & Information sharing

Data protection policy –

<https://charteracademy.org.uk/policies/data-protection-and-freedom-information-policy>

Managing Allegations made against/ Concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors 2021-22 (Ark procedure)

Allegations of Abuse made against staff 2021-2022 - please email info@charteracademy.org.uk to request a copy.

Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (DfE 2018)

Ark Charter operates in accordance with this guidance

The Governors Handbook – (requirement for Governors)

New governors will receive a handbook via the governance team which outlines their responsibility for safeguarding.

Local, Regional and National support services for staff, parents, pupils

Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership	https://www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/
Portsmouth Children and Families service	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/health-and-care/children-and-families/support-for-children-and-families/
Portsmouth Early Help	https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/health-and-care/children-and-families/early-help-and-prevention-service/
HIVE Portsmouth	https://hiveportsmouth.org.uk/hive-directory/service/400
National Bullying helpline	https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/about.html

Home start	https://www.home-start.org.uk/home-start-portsmouth
Childline	https://www.childline.org.uk/

APPENDIX B

Statutory legislation and guidance documents

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) DfE (Sept 2021)

Working together to Safeguard Children July 2018

What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (March 2015)

Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021

Use of reasonable force: advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies (July 2013)

Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners (DfE, 2018)

Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales' (2015)

Early years (under 5s) foundation stage framework (EYFS) (2017)

The Children Act 1989

The Children Act 2004

DfE's Data Protection: A Toolkit for Schools (2018)

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Education Act 2002

The Children and Families Act 2014

Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills setting (2019)

SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years (DfE 2017)

Mental Health & Behaviour in Schools Nov 2018

Disqualification under the Childcare Act (DfE, 2006)

The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018

School attendance August 2020

Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England (Sept 2017)

Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance (July 2017)

Education Inspection Framework (Sept 2019)

Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings (Sept 2019)

Safeguarding in schools, colleges and other providers

Safeguarding and Remote Education

Sharing nude and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (Dec 2020)

Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children

The Equality Act 2010

The Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Information Protection Regulations

The Serious Crime Act 2015 (sets out a duty on professionals (including teachers) to notify police when they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18).

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, 2019 (which is commonly known as the Upskirting Act)

'When to call the police' Guidance for schools and colleges, produced by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) 2020.

Home Office's Preventing youth violence and gang involvement

APPENDIX C

Abuse / Safeguarding Issues that can place children at risk of harm

Abuse

Bullying including cyberbullying

Children and the Court System (Ages 5-11)

Children and the Court System (Ages 12-17)

Children with family members in prison

Child Missing from Education

Child Missing from home or care

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adult's county lines

Domestic Abuse

Drug Advice for Schools

Fabricated or Induced Illness

Faith or Belief Based Abuse

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Forced Marriage

Gangs and Youth Violence

Gender based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Hate

Homelessness

Mental health

Peer on Peer / child on child

Private fostering

Preventing radicalisation

Protecting children from radicalisation

Consensual and non-consensual Sharing nude and semi-nudes

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges

Serious Violence

Trafficking and modern slavery

Up-skirting

APPENDIX D

RECRUITMENT & APPOINTMENT POLICY 2021-23

[DRAFT Recruitment and appointment policy Jan 2021.docx](#)