

# Trust Policy

## Safeguarding Policy (Nottinghamshire County Council model)



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### Contained within this document:

Full safeguarding guidance for county schools

### This policy should be read in conjunction with:

The full list of associated policies contained within this document



# Safeguarding Policy

(Nottinghamshire County Council Model)

## Policy/Procedure management log

Document name	Safeguarding Policy (Nottinghamshire County Council Model)
Author	H Duffy
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## Document history

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V1	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2016	H Duffy	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2016	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2016
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V 4	March 2018	H Duffy	March 18	March 18
V5	September 18	H Duffy	Sept 18	Sept 18
V6	September 19 Covid 19 Annex March 20	H Duffy	September 2019	September 2019
V7	September 20	H Duffy	September 2020	September 2020

## Files, Recording and Auditing

**Please Note: It is important to acknowledge that some Nova schools no longer keep paper files and over the coming months this will largely be the case.**

Staff will need to access relevant training to be confidently and competently able to administer the system and its functions for recording and reporting cases of a 'safeguarding' and or 'child protection nature. Staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities, including governors and senior leaders will need to be conversant with the electronic system to ensure it is fully operational, maintained and suitable to support the schools 'safeguarding arrangements'.

The Head Teacher, if not the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead, as well as named governors with child protection/ safeguarding responsibilities, will also need to be

conversant with whatever system is in place to be able to carry out as a minimum the annual safeguarding/ child protection audits.

Your school child protection/safeguarding policy should stipulate which system you have chosen to adopt.

## **Transfer of Concern/Child Protection File**

When children leave a school or college through either transfer or transition to another school or education provider the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should ensure their 'concern'/'child protection' file is transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible, ideally at the same time as the child goes off roll. The 'concern'/'child protection' file should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit via a secure and signed for mechanism, or where possible, in person, and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. It is advised, wherever possible, for the file to be hand-delivered to the receiving Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead, ensuring a discussion takes place before the child goes on roll, to ensure all necessary safeguards are in place and the child is aware of who will be available to support them.

Transferring of schools at key stages is often a difficult or anxious time for most children. For children with child protection or safeguarding concerns/ needs this can be increased through the nature of what may be happening in the child's life and within the family.

Those with designated safeguarding roles and responsibilities should ensure wherever possible the child feels able to voice any concerns or share information with a member of staff. It would be advisable wherever possible for the child to be offered a mentor or 'key person' who they can go to for support.

If there is any ongoing legal action when the child/ young person is leaving or transferring to another school this must be shared fully with the Snr DSL at the receiving school i.e. A child being on a Child Protection Plan could also be considered as 'legal 'action'. Custody of any legal documentation and responsibility for subsequent actions then passes to the School that the child/ young person transfers to. School should not retain copies of information or legal documentation unless it complies with any retention policy of the individual school.

### Retaining files:

- Primary schools must send everything that they have to the secondary school and keep nothing themselves.
- Secondary schools must retain copies of the person's file up until their 26th birthday

**Please Note:** This guidance along with the child protection policy template will be extensively reviewed and revised as soon as the Government and DFE publish the next edition of DFE Keeping Children Safe in Education and HM Working Together to Safeguard Children or other statutory guidance which will inform on roles, responsibilities and practices to be brought into place and action.

# INTRODUCTION

The Suthers School

## **Policy statement and principles**

**In order to protect students at The Suthers School, we aim to:**

- Create an atmosphere where all students feel secure, valued and listened to
- Recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse
- Respond quickly and effectively to cases of suspected abuse

**Our school will support students by:**

- Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness whilst not condoning aggression or bullying
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school

**Everyone working with our students should be aware that:**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they must consider, at all times, what is in the **best interests** of the child.

Before outside agencies are invited into the School to work with our students or to carry out work on the premises, staff are required to ensure that all the relevant DBS checks have been done and that ID has been seen.

The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Pettit (Head of School) and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Lynas (Assistant Head)

A disclosure of abuse or harm can be made at any time (during lessons, at break-times, after school etc)

Their role is to listen and note carefully any observations which could indicate abuse

Report any concerns to the Safeguarding Team without delay

They should not attempt to investigate once the initial concern has been raised

Based on NCC and NSCP

In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, urgent concerns should be reported directly to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp)

## **Policy Review**

This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed by the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead Mr Andrew Pettit on a regular basis to ensure it remains current and incorporates all revisions made to local or national safeguarding guidance. This policy will as a minimum be fully reviewed as a minimum once a year during the autumn term provided to the Governing Body or Multi Academy Trust for approval and sign off at the first autumn term meeting.

Date of last review: October 2020

Date of next review: September 2021

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Designated Governor for Child Protection/ Safeguarding	Mrs Pippa Suthers (Chair of Governors)	07844 490349
Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Andrew Pettit (Head of School)	01636 957690
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Mr Dom Lynas (Assistant Head)	01636 957690
<i>Names of additional Safeguarding Officers</i>	Mrs Emmanulle Scott (SENDCo) Mr Jono Ubhi	
LA Safeguarding Children in Education Officer		0115 8041047
LA Child Protection Contact/LADO	Cheryl Stollery	0115 8041272
MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub)	Eva Callaghan or covering LADO	0300 500 80 90
Emergency Duty Team (Children's Social care)	Outside of office hours	0300 456 4546

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the The Suthers School and takes into account statutory guidance provided by the Department for Education and local guidance issued by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

We will ensure that all parents/carers are made aware of our responsibilities with regard to child protection procedures and how we will safeguard and promote the welfare of their children through the publication of this The Suthers School child protection policy.

These duties and responsibilities, as set out within the Education Act 2002 sec175 and 157, DfE Statutory Guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 and HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 are incorporated into this policy.

### **Child Protection and Safeguarding Statement**

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We will be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors/member of the Nova Education Trust and are consistent with those of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP).

**Safeguarding children is defined as:**

- The actions we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm are everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

**Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:**

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (page 6).

**NB. Definition:** Children includes everyone under the age of 18 years of age

**Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It also relates to the broader aspects of care and education including:**

- Pupils' health and safety and emotional well-being, and their mental and physical health or development.
- Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The use of reasonable force.
- Meeting the needs of children with medical conditions.
- Providing first aid.
- Educational visits and off- site education.
- Intimate care and emotional wellbeing.
- On-line safety and associated issues.
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure school security, taking into account the local context.
- Keeping children safe from risks, harm and exploitation: KCSIE 2020 Annex A.

**Safeguarding can involve a range of potential issues such as:**

- Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.
- Contextualised abuse.
- Bullying, including online bullying (by text message, on social networking sites, and prejudice-based bullying).
- Peer on Peer abuse.
- Racist, disability- based, homophobic, bi-phobic or transphobic abuse.
- Gender based violence/violence against women and girls.
- Extremist behaviour and/or radicalisation.
- Child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, modern slavery or exploitation.
- The impact of new technologies, including 'sexting' and accessing pornography.

- Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (defined in KCSiE 2020 Part Five pages 69 to 77).
- Issues which may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity, knife crime, youth violence, criminal child exploitation (CCE) and County Lines.
- Is in family circumstances which present challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues.
- Is at risk of or from serious violence and violent crime (KCSiE 2020 paragraphs 31 and 32).
- Particular issues affecting children including domestic abuse and violence, female genital mutilation and honour-based abuse and forced marriage.
- 'Upskirting'- The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, which is commonly known as Upskirting Act, came into force on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Upskirting is a criminal offence and reportable by all teachers (KCSiE 2020, Annex A page 94).
- Poor mental health Indicators that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Our ethos at The Suthers School demonstrates that the effective safeguarding of children can only be achieved by putting children at the centre of a system where we listen and hear what they say. Every individual within The Suthers School will play their part, including working with professionals from other agencies, to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and keep them safe. We will take opportunities to teach children about important safeguarding issues in a way that is age appropriate.

The Suthers School is led by senior members of staff and Governors whose aims are to provide a safe environment and vigilant culture where children and young people can learn and be safeguarded. If there are safeguarding concerns, we will respond with appropriate action in a timely manner for those children who may need help or who may be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Where staff members have concerns about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger) they will decide what action to take in conjunction with the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead. Although we advocate that any staff can make a referral to children's social care or MASH, especially where a child is identified as being in immediate danger, they should however ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or a member of the senior leadership team is informed as soon as possible.

We also ensure that all our staff are clear that whilst they should discuss and agree with the DSL any actions to be taken, they are able to escalate their concerns and contact MASH, or social care to seek support for the child if despite the discussion with the DSL their concerns remain. Staff are also informed of the School whistle blowing procedures and the contact details for the Local Authority LADO and NSPCC helpline.

All new staff, supply staff and volunteers receive personalised safeguarding training as part of their induction process. Through a range of questioning, scenarios and evaluations, the Safeguarding team ensure that all staff are clear on how to report concerns or disclosures and what to do if they have concerns about another member of staff (including supply staff and volunteers).

- Regular training of DSLs,
- Published DSL photos around site
- All Staff receive regular safeguarding training

- Awareness is raised in Staff Briefing meetings and bulletins
- Safeguarding board in the staffroom
- Supply staff are provided with safeguarding information upon arrival to site
- All staff wear appropriate lanyards
- DSL email and safeguarding online portal

Mr Andrew Pettit, The Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is familiar with national and local guidance, will share concerns, where appropriate, with the relevant agencies.

- Attendance at all child protection multi-agency meetings
- Effective communication and collaboration with MASH, LADO if necessary in school
- Counselling via Active Listening Therapies
- Working with external agencies including; Nottinghamshire social care, Police, Early help, Fair Access, Healthy Families, CAMHS and a range of charities that work with our students such as CASY and WAM.

## Our Child Protection Policy

**There are six main elements to our policy:**

- Providing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse.
- Supporting pupils who have been abused or harmed in accordance with his/her child protection plan.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding children, child protection processes and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Working in partnership with agencies and safeguarding partners in the 'best interest of the child'.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, *school/academy/ college staff* are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse.

**The Suthers School will therefore:**

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to and heard.
- Ensure children know that there are trusted adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried.
- Ensure that every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies.
- Include opportunities in the RSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse by:
  - Recognising and managing risks including online, sexual exploitation, sexting and running away, as well as radicalisation.



- Developing healthy relationships and awareness of domestic violence, and abuse which is linked to 'honour' such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage, bullying and peer on peer abuse.
- Recognising how pressure from others can affect their behaviour.
- Knowing that as a school we will act swiftly to address any concerns related to serious violence, gang and knife crime or child on child sexual violence or sexual harassment incidents.

As part of our commitment to ensure all pupils and staff know how to keep each other safe, the school has embedded safeguarding across our balanced curriculum including, the Personal development curriculum in conjunction with RSHE teaching to all year groups.

- We will take all reasonable measures to ensure any risk of harm to children's welfare is minimised.
- Take all appropriate actions to address concerns about the welfare of a child, working to local policies and procedures in full working partnership with agencies.
- Ensure robust child protection arrangements are in place and embedded in the daily life and practice of the school.
- Promote pupil health and safety.
- Promote safe practice, and challenge unsafe practice.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to deal with allegations of abuse against teachers and other staff including volunteers (KCSiE 2020 Part Four Pages 56 to 68), and the NSCP local multi-agency procedures.
- Provide first aid and meet the health needs of children with medical conditions
- Ensure school site security.
- Address drugs and substance misuse issues.
- Support and plan for young people in custody and their resettlement back into the community.
- Work with all agencies regarding missing children, anti-social behaviour/gang activity and violence in the community/knife crime and children at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Everyone having a duty to safeguard children inside/outside the school environment including school trips, extended school activities, vocational placements and alternative education packages.

In specific circumstances:

- Weekly dialogue is held with parents/carers
- Weekly attendance reports are checked
- Individual safety plans are put in place for high risk children
- Risk management is undertaken and safety checks for work experience
- DfE approved Alternative Provision is sought and regular communication maintained
- Clear communication between school and external staff

**We will follow the procedures set out by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and take account of guidance issued by the DfE in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 to:**

- Ensure we have a Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who is a member of the school/college leadership team, and a Deputy Safeguarding Lead for child protection/safeguarding who has received appropriate training and support for this role.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead role is written into their job description and clarifies the role and responsibilities included (as defined in KCSiE 2020 Annex B).
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection/safeguarding.
- Ensure that we have a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC).
- Ensure every member of staff (including temporary, supply staff and volunteers) and the governing body knows the name of the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead, their deputies responsible for child protection, and their role.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and their responsibility for referring any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or to children's social care/police if a child is in immediate danger.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of the early help process and understand their role in making referrals or contributing to early help offers and arrangements.
- Ensure that there is a whistleblowing policy and culture where staff can raise concerns about unsafe practice, and that these concerns will be taken seriously.
- Ensure that there is a complaints system in place for children and families.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection and safeguarding by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus and on the school's website.
- Notify Children's Social Care if there is an unexplained absence for a child who is subject to a child protection plan and where no contact can be established with the child or a parent or appropriate adult linked to the child.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and cooperate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters, including attendance at child protection conferences.
- Keep written records of concerns about children, even where there is no need to refer the matter immediately; documenting and collating information on individual children to support early identification, referral and actions to safeguard.
- Ensure all records are kept securely; predominantly safeguarding information is
- stored and accessed on the TSS safeguarding online portal.
- Ensure that we follow robust processes to respond when children are missing from education or missing from home or care.
- Develop and then follow procedures where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.
- Apply confidentiality appropriately.
- Apply the NSCP escalation procedures if there are any concerns about the actions or inaction of social care staff or staff from other agencies.

### **Supporting children**

We recognise that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a positive sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk.

When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. We also recognise that there are children who are more vulnerable than others, which include children with special educational needs and or disabilities.

### **Our school will endeavour to support the pupil through:**

- Developing the content of our personal development curriculum covering character development through our TORCH values, self-awareness and local and national trends
- Maintaining a School ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment, and which gives pupils a sense of them being valued.
- The school behaviour policy, anti-bullying policy and peer on peer abuse policy which is kept up to date with national and local guidance and which is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in our school
- Our school will proactively ensure that all children know that some behaviours are unacceptable and will need to be addressed but as members of our school they are valued and will be supported through the time required to deal with any abuse or harm that has occurred, or outcomes from incidents. The school works in partnership with Parents and Carers to regularly modify behaviour; behavioural support is provided by form tutors, a senior Pastoral Lead along with the Senior Leadership team. Student support is also provided by way of Student Services with Learning support providing support for students with specific learning and emotional needs.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil such as Children's Social Care (in line with the Pathway to Provision Version 8, published in March 2019), Behaviour and Attendance Service and Education Psychology Service, use of Complex Case Resolution Meetings and the Early Help Assessment Form (EHAF), etc.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil leaves and is subject to a child protection plan, child in need plan or where there have been wider safeguarding concerns, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child's social worker is informed.
- Ensuring that the vulnerability of children with special educational needs and or disabilities is recognised and fully supported SENDCo and Learning Support team. All students are provided with advice and support during safeguarding assemblies; additional support is provided during form time and supervised study. Staff are aware of a dedicated email address for the DSL to share concerns and to seek advice.

### **Safe Staff and Supporting Staff**

- The leadership team and governing body of the school will ensure that all safer working practices and recruitment procedures are followed in accordance with the guidance set out in KCSiE 2020 Part Three and advised by Nova Education Trust policy and practice guidance.
- School leaders, staff and members of the governing body will be appropriately trained in safer working practices and access the safer recruitment training advised by Nova Education Trust
- Statutory pre-employment checks and references from previous employers are an essential part of the recruitment process. We will ensure we adopt the appropriate necessary procedures to carry out the checks required and were any concerns arise we will seek advice and act in accordance with national guidance.
- The school has in place recruitment, selection and vetting procedures in accordance with KCSiE 2020 Part Three and maintains a Single Central Record (SCR), which is reviewed regularly and updated in accordance with KCSiE 2020 Part Three paragraphs 164 to 171.

- Staff will have access to advice on the boundaries of appropriate behaviour and will be aware of the School Employee Code of Conduct, which includes contact between staff and pupils outside the work context. Staff can access a copy of this through the Nova HR Portal
- Newly appointed staff and volunteers will be informed of our arrangements for safer working practices by Central and school HR before beginning working and contact with pupils
- In the event of any complaint or allegation against a member of staff, the headteacher (or the Designated Safeguarding Lead) if the headteacher is not present, will be notified immediately. If it relates to the headteacher, the Chair of governors will be informed without delay. We will respond to all allegations robustly and appropriately in collaboration with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) LADO/Allegation Officer and HR Business Partner or HR Service.
- Staff may find some of the issues relating to child protection and the broader areas of safeguarding upsetting and may need support which should be provided by the school and their Human Resources Team.
- Advice and support will be made available by the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer (SCiEO), LADO and NCC HR where appropriate to the leadership team.
- All new employees will be appropriately inducted to their role and a link to the Induction Checklist for Safer Recruitment can be accessed from HR's guidance section of the School Portal.
- The school ensures that all Adults who supervise children on work experience have the correct policies and procedures in place to protect children. This audited before any placements are commissioned.

### **Links to other Local Authority policies**

This policy, together with the following, should be read alongside and in conjunction with other policies and statutory guidance regarding the safety and welfare of children. These together will make up the suite of policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in this school

- Accessibility Plan.
- Anti-Bullying revised for 220-2021.
- Attendance Policy.
- Behaviour Principles Written Statement.
- Equality.
- Central Record of Recruitment and Vetting Checks.
- Complaints' Procedure Statement.
- Cyber-bullying.
- E-Safety Policy.
- Freedom of Information.
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Guidance
- Radicalisation – Prevent Duty- (School's should have a Prevent Action Plan)
- Health and Safety Disability Equality Action Plan.
- Home-school Agreement Document.
- Knife Crime Policy (new from July 2019)
- Peer on Peer Abuse- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges, and response to 'upskirting'.
- Physical intervention/positive handling.

- Register of Pupil Attendance.
- School Access Policy.
- School Behaviour.
- Knife Crime Protocol 2019 (multi-agency).
- New: Relationships, Sex and Health Education (KCSiE 2020 Paragraph 94).
- New: Mental and Physical Health (KCSiE Part One paragraph 4 paragraphs 34 to 40 and paragraphs 113 to 116).
- Special Educational Needs.
- CRB - Use of Reasonable Force Policy/ Guidance.
- Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct policy).
- Staff Discipline Conduct and Grievance (procedures for addressing).
- School information published on a website.
- Visitors and VIP Policy.
- Whistle Blowing Policy.
- New: Guidance for NSPCC helpline and usage (KCSiE 2020 paragraph 70; when to call the police guidance from the NSPCC).

Nottinghamshire safeguarding Children Partnership Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance link: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp/policy-procedures-and-guidance>

## Roles and Responsibilities

### All staff and volunteers

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone in our school who comes into contact with children and their families have a role to play in safeguarding children. All staff in our school consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of children.

All staff within our School are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help to children to prevent concerns from escalating. All staff contribute to providing a safe environment in which children can learn by maintaining positive relationships which are underpinned by our commitment to the Work Hard; Be Kind ethos along with our ongoing character development via our TORCH values.

All our staff are aware of the early help process and understand their role in this. This includes being able to identify emerging problems to recognise children who may benefit from early help. Staff know in the first instance to discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and understand they may be required to support other agencies and professionals in assessments for early help.

To enable a safe environment both in and when out of school on trips or extended learning opportunities, staff complete EVOLVE risk assessments, ensure compliance regarding essential staff : student ratios, EV4 forms, emergency contact details etc. Staff are made fully aware of any key students who will require any particular support and / or supervision. All staff, especially the Pastoral and safeguarding teams will work with social care and external agencies to address safeguarding and child protection concerns. All our staff are aware of the early help process and understand their role in this. This includes being able to identify

emerging problems to recognise children who may benefit from early help. Staff know in the first instance to discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and understand they may be required to support other agencies and professionals in assessments for early help.

The Suthers School recognise that a child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educational disadvantage in facing barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health. Additional support is provided outside the classroom from staff via a non-teaching Senior pastoral Lead and Learning Support.

Pastoral staff are always available for meetings and to provide support and advice should parents/carers come to school to seek advice. Our DSLs work with social care and safeguarding partners to ensure children subject to child protection, child in need and LAC plans are kept safe and the child's needs are met. The school recognises the importance of the requirement to meet with social workers during the school day and always accommodates these meetings as required. Students, parents and carers are advised of the support available via regular email updates, updates / referrals on the school website, the Weekly Bulletin, assemblies, Children, parents and carers can find additional support, in school and through the school website. The safeguarding team also provide safeguarding emails, bulletins and posters sharing the details of a range of support agencies with parents and children.

## **Safeguarding Training**

All our staff are aware of systems within The Suthers School and these are explained to them as part of staff induction, which include our child protection policy; the employee code of conduct and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.

Our school utilises an induction checklist when staff are inducted which includes the above, but also other policy and procedural information.

All our staff receive safeguarding and child protection training which is updated every three years. In addition, to this training, all staff members receive child protection and safeguarding updates when required, but at least annually from the safeguarding team and are kept up to date with any local or national changes to safeguarding guidance in staff safeguarding bulletins and CPD. DSL leads deliver essential training and safeguarding guidance to all and specifically Pastoral staff. Safeguarding is an agenda item at every weekly SLT meeting. In addition the Nova Safeguarding Lead provides whole staff training every three years.

All our staff are aware of the process for making referrals to children's social care and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and understand the role they may have in these assessments.

All our staff know what to do if a child is raising concerns or makes a disclosure of abuse and/or neglect. Staff will maintain a level of confidentiality whilst liaising with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and children's social care. Our staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a disclosure or allegation, recognising this may not be in the best interest of the child.

## **Staff responsibilities**

All staff have a key role to play in identifying concerns and provide early help for children.

### **To achieve this, they will:**

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or have concerns.
- Plan opportunities within the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to assess and manage risk appropriately and keep themselves safe.
- Attend training in order to be aware of and alert to the signs of abuse.
- Maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” with regards to safeguarding.
- Record their concerns if they are worried that a child is being abused and report these to the DSL as soon as practical that day. If the DSL is not contactable immediately a Deputy DSL should be informed.
- Be prepared to refer directly to social care, and the police if appropriate, if there is a risk of significant harm and the DSL or their Deputy is not available.
- Follow the allegations procedures if the disclosure is an allegation against a member of staff.
- Follow the procedures set out by the NSCP and take account of guidance issued by the DfE KCSiE 2020.
- Support pupils in line with their child protection plan, child in need plan, LAC Care Plan.
- Treat information with confidentiality but never promising to “keep a secret”.
- Notify the DSL or their Deputy of any child on a child protection plan or child in need plan who has unexplained absence.
- Have an understanding of early help and be prepared to identify and support children who may benefit from early help.
- Liaise with other agencies that support pupils and provide early help.
- Ensure they know who the DSL and Deputy DSL’s are and know how to contact them.
- Have an awareness of the Child Protection Policy, the Behaviour Policy, the Staff Behaviour Policy (or Code of Conduct), procedures relating to the safeguarding response for children who go missing from education and the role of the DSL.

The Suthers School engage in learning opportunities or partnership work with the NSPCC, TETC team, Police Early Interventions Officers, PCSO’s, counselling services and health professionals

### **Senior Leadership/Management Team responsibilities:**

- Contribute to inter-agency working in line with HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance.
- Provide a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified.
- Ensure all staff, supply staff and volunteers are alert to the definitions of abuse and indicators (KCSiE 2020 paragraphs 19 to 28), and through access to regular training opportunities and updates.
- Ensure staff are alert to the various factors that can increase the need for early help (*KCSiE 2020 paragraph 18*).
- Working with Children’s Social Care, support their assessment and planning processes including the school’s attendance at conference and core group meetings as appropriate.

- Carry out tasks delegated by the governing body such as training of staff, safer recruitment and maintaining a single central register.
- Provide support and advice on all matters pertaining to safeguarding and child protection to all staff regardless of their position within the school.
- Treat any information shared by staff or pupils with respect and follow agreed policies and procedures.
- Ensure that allegations or concerns against staff are dealt with in accordance with guidance from Department for Education (DfE KCSiE 2020 Part Four 'Allegations of abuse made against teachers, and other staff, including supply teachers and volunteers').
- KCSiE 2020 Part Four Allegations of Abuse made against teachers including supply teachers, other staff and volunteers and contractors', paragraph 211: Includes behaviours which covers where an individual has behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children. The reason is because of transferrable risk. Where a member of staff or volunteer is involved in an incident outside of schools/college which did not involve children but could have an impact on their suitability to work with children.
- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) and Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC).

## **Teachers (including NQTs) and Headteachers – Professional Duty**

The Teachers Standards 2012 remind us that teachers, newly qualified teachers and headteachers should safeguard children and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of our professional duties.

The Children and Social Work Act of 2017, places responsibilities for designated teachers to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.

## **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

We have a Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding children and child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. The Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead is a senior member of the school leadership team and their responsibilities are explicit in their job description.

We also have a Deputy Safeguarding Lead, who will provide cover for the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead when they are not available. Our Deputy Safeguarding Lead has received the same training as our Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead. They will provide additional support to ensure the responsibilities for child protection and safeguarding children are fully embedded within the school ethos and that specific duties are discharged. They will assist the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead in managing referrals, attending Child Protection Conferences, reviews and meetings and supporting the child/children.

We acknowledge the need for effective and appropriate communication between all members of staff in relation to safeguarding pupils. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure there is a structured procedure within the school, which will be followed by all of the members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.



## **The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to:**

### **Manage Referrals**

- Refer cases of suspected abuse or allegations to the relevant investigating agencies.
- Support staff who make referrals to children's social care and other referral pathways.
- Refer cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child and the DBS as required.

The DSL team meet on a regular basis to have a strategic overview of key students with safeguarding concerns. Information is recorded and communicated via the Safeguarding Portal App; information logs and historical content are reviewed regularly.

### **Work with others**

- Liaise with the headteacher/principal (where the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead role is not carried out by the headteacher) to inform him/her of any issues and ongoing investigations.
- As required, liaise with the 'case manager' (as per Part Four of KCSiE 2020) and the LADO where there are child protection concerns/allegations that relate to a member of staff.
- Liaise with the case manager and the LADO/ LADO Allegation Officer where there are concerns about a staff member.
- Liaise with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and deciding when to make a referral by liaising with other agencies and acts as a source of support, advice and expertise for other staff.
- Take part in strategy discussions or attend inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so and to contribute to the assessment of children.
- Liaise with the local authority and other agencies in line with HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the local Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures and practice guidance.

DSL attends lead focus group meetings every half term across the county. Information is disseminated through training for other DSLs, SLT meetings, staff notice boards, regular dialogue, training for staff and students through external agencies and developing links with working partnerships. DSL contributes to the strategic planning of the Personal Development Curriculum and Civics curriculum

### **Undertake training**

- Formal Designated Safeguarding Lead training will be undertaken every two years. Informal training and updating of knowledge and skills will be at regular intervals, undertaken at least annually. The Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for their own training and should obtain access to resources or any relevant refresher training.
- The Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead is also responsible for ensuring all other staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities access up to date and timely safeguarding training and maintains a register or data base to evidence the training.

## **The training undertaken should enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead to:**

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention through the NSCP's Pathway to Provision Version 8, EHAF and the Early Help Unit.
- Have a working knowledge of how the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership operates, the conduct of a child protection conference, and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure that each member of staff has access to the child protection policy and procedures.
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, including those with special educational needs and or disabilities and young carers.
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- Understand the Prevent Duty and provide advice and support to staff on protecting and preventing children from the risk of radicalisation and being grooming into extremist behaviours and attitudes (KCSiE 2020 Annex A pages 89 to 91).
- Understand the reporting requirements for FGM.
- Understand and support children to keep safe when online and when they are learning at home. (KCSiE 2020 Paragraph 92 and Annex C).
- Encourage a culture of protecting children; listening to children and their wishes and feelings.

### **Raise awareness**

- Ensure that the child protection policies are known, understood and used appropriately.
- Ensure that the child protection policy is reviewed annually in consultation with staff members, and procedures are updated and reviewed regularly and implemented, and that the governing body is kept up to date and actively involved.
- Work strategically to ensure policies and procedures are up to date and drive and support development work within the school.
- Ensure that the child protection policy is available to parents and carers and uploaded to the school website and make parents/carers aware that referrals may be made about suspected abuse or neglect.
- Ensure all staff receive induction training covering child protection before working with children and can recognise and report any concerns immediately as they arise.

### **Child Protection file**

- The Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that when a child leaves the school or college their 'child protection', 'child in need' file or 'confidential' file is transferred to the new school or college at the same time the child goes on roll of its new school or education provision.
- At The Suthers School, we operate an electronic Safeguarding Portal App which is widely used across our Trust. We also have a number of safeguarding files which are locked away in a secure cabinet away from all classrooms separate from the main student files. Secure delivery of files to transfer destination is arranged and a receipt is obtained to advise the file has been received.

### **Availability**

- During term time the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy) will always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any

safeguarding concerns. Appropriate arrangements will also need to be in place for any out of school hours' activities in line with the guidance contained in DfE KCSiE 2020 paragraphs 45 and 46, 67 to 73, and Annex B.

## **Headteacher**

### **The Headteacher of the school will ensure that:**

- The policies and procedures adopted by the governing body are fully implemented and followed by all staff.
- The school has an up to date Single Central Record (SCR) which is reviewed regularly and is compliant with statutory guidance.
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice with regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies.
- The Headteacher will ensure all staff including supply teachers and volunteers have access to and read and understand the requirements placed on them through: - the Whole School Child Protection Policy; the Staff Behaviour/Code of Conduct Policy.
- The Headteacher will ensure there are mechanisms in place to assist staff to fully understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in KCSiE 2020.
- Where there is an allegation made against a member of staff (either paid or unpaid) that meets the criteria for a referral to the LADO, then the headteacher or principal will discuss the allegation immediately with the LADO (within 24 hours) and ensure that cases are managed as per Part Four of KCSiE (2020). If the allegation is against the Headteacher/Principal, then the Chair of the Governing Body will manage the allegation – see below.

## **Governing Body and Multi- Academy Trusts**

### **The governing body will be collectively responsible for ensuring that safeguarding arrangements are fully embedded within the school's ethos and reflected in the school's day to day safeguarding practices by:**

- Ensuring there is an individual member of the governing body to take leadership responsibility for safeguarding and champion child protection issues in the school.
- Ensuring that the school has effective policies and procedures in line with statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) as well as with local NSCP guidance and monitors the school's compliance with them.
- Ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to promote a child's welfare.
- Recognising the importance of information sharing between agencies through the statutory guidance provided within KCSiE 2020 Part Four: 'Allegations of abuse made against teachers, and other staff, including supply teachers and volunteers', HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the recently published HM Government guidance Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children,

young people, parents and carers, published July 2018 and KCSiE 2020 paragraph 84, the additional clarification about GPDR and withholding information.

- Ensuring cooperation with the local authority and other safeguarding partners.
- Appointing a Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead from the leadership team to take lead responsibility for child protection/safeguarding and that a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is appointed and appropriately trained.
- Ensuring that all staff, supply teachers and governors read and fully understand at least KCSiE 2020 Part One, Annex A and Part Five as a minimum, and ensure that there are mechanisms in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as required within the guidance.
- Ensuring that the governing body understands it is collectively responsible for the school's safeguarding arrangements, even though a governor will be nominated as the 'Safeguarding Governor' and person who will champion all safeguarding requirements'.
- All members of the governing body will undertake training about child protection to ensure they have the knowledge and information needed to perform their functions and understand their responsibilities, order to discharge their responsibilities and act as the school's 'critical friend'.
- The Chair of Governors and named Safeguarding Governor will access role specific training to enable them to comply and discharge their child protection/ safeguarding responsibilities.
- The Governing body will collectively ensure there is a training strategy in place for all staff, including the headteacher, so that child protection training is undertaken with refreshed in line with KCSiE 2020 and NSCP guidance.
- Ensuring that staff undergo safeguarding child protection training at induction and that there are arrangements in place for staff to be regularly updated to ensure that safeguarding remains a priority.
- Ensuring that temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities
- Ensuring there are procedures in place to manage allegations against staff and exercise disciplinary functions in respect of dealing with a complaint.
- Ensuring that arrangements/procedures are in place to manage 'low level' concerns (allegations and concerns about a staff member that after initial consideration by the 'case manager' do not meet the criteria for a referral to LADO).
- Ensuring a response if there is an allegation against the Head teacher by liaising with the LADO or other appropriate officers within the local authority.
- Ensuring appropriate responses to children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse, including child sexual exploitation and going missing in future.
- Be aware of the issues involving the complexity of serious violence and sexual violence and sexually harmful behaviour and ensure the school has the training and resources to manage any concerns or incidents harmful.
- Be alert to the growing concerns involving knife crime and ensure the school works closely with the police and safeguarding partners to raise awareness of the impact of such crime and adopt proactive practice to address concerns locally and within the community.
- Ensuring appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect children online and children are taught about keeping safe online through the curriculum.
- Giving staff the opportunities to contribute and shape safeguarding arrangements and child protection policy.

- Prevent people who pose a risk of harm from working with children by adhering to statutory responsibilities to check staff who work with children, making decisions about additional checks and ensuring volunteers are supervised as required.
- Ensure at least one person on an interview panel has completed safer recruitment training.
- Recognising that certain children are more vulnerable than others, such as looked after children and children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Be open to accepting that child abuse and incidents can happen within the school and be available to act decisively upon them.

## **Looked After Children – The Role of Designated and the Designated Safeguarding Lead**

- A teacher is appointed who has responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of children who are looked after. They have the appropriate training. The Designated Teacher will work with the Virtual School to ensure that the progress of the child is supported.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will also have details of the child's social worker and the name of the Assistant Head of the Virtual School. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will work closely with the Designated Teacher, as we recognise that children may have been abused or neglected before becoming looked after. We will ensure their ongoing safety and wellbeing as well as supporting their education, through linking with their social worker, carers and parents where appropriate.
- We also recognise those children who were previously Looked After potentially remain vulnerable and all staff will be informed of the importance of maintaining support for them through our school pastoral system. As a school, we will continue to recognise the importance of working with agencies and take prompt actions where necessary to safeguard these children, who may remain vulnerable.

## **Care Leavers**

We recognise those children and young people who cease to be Looked After and become 'care leavers', should remain supported and our Designated Teacher and school staff will work with the Personal Advisor appointed for them, where one is appointed, to help develop a pathway plan with them and the young person.

Care leavers will have access to pastoral support at all times. Designated staff mentor to assist with personal development and academic achievement.

## **Identifying Concerns**

All members of staff, volunteers and governors will know how to identify pupils who may be being harmed and then how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse, or where others raise concerns about them. Our staff will be familiar with procedures to be followed.

Staff understand that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition, and that in most cases multiple issues will overlap with each other. Staff who regularly come into contact with children are aware of the DfE guidance [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#)

### **Some of the following signs might be indicators of abuse or neglect:**

- Children whose behaviour changes – they may become aggressive, challenging, disruptive, withdrawn or clingy, or they might have difficulty sleeping or start wetting the bed;
- Children with clothes which are ill-fitting and/or dirty;
- Children with consistently poor hygiene;
- Children who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members or friends, without an obvious reason;
- Children who don't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities;
- Children who are having problems at school, for example, a sudden lack of concentration and learning or they appear to be tired and hungry;
- Children who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with strangers;
- Children who reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk, late, with no medical reason;
- Children who are regularly missing from school or education;
- Children who are reluctant to go home after school;
- Children with poor school attendance and punctuality, or who are consistently late being picked up;
- Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to practitioners' concerns;
- Parents who collect their children from school when drunk, or under the influence of drugs, are influenced by gangs and drug and knife crime;
- Children who have limited or no support or supervision when online and or using social media sites outside of their understanding or age limits.
- Children who drink alcohol regularly from an early age;
- Children who are concerned for younger siblings without explaining why;
- Children who talk about running away; and
- Children who shy away from being touched or flinch at sudden movements.
- Children with mental or physical health issues or needs.
- Children or young people with 'carer responsibilities beyond their age or limitations'.

All staff are aware of the dedicated TSS-DSL email safeguarding email address. Information is provided on the safeguarding board in the staffroom and regular updates are provided and staff training undertaken.

### **The four categories of child abuse are as follows:**

- 1. Physical Abuse**
- 2. Emotional Abuse**
- 3. Sexual Abuse**
- 4. Neglect**

**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.

**Some of the Possible Indicators Could Include:**

May be recognised by: Children with frequent injuries, injury such as bruising, bite marks, burns and scalds, fractures but also by aggressive behaviour. It may also be an indicator of concern where a parent gives an explanation inconsistent with the injury or gives several different explanations for the injury.

**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 over protection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

**Some of the Possible Indicators could include:**

May be recognised by: Developmental delay, attachment issues, aggressive behaviour, appeasing behaviour, watchfulness or stillness, low self-esteem, withdrawn or a loner, or having difficulty in forming relationships. Emotional abuse may be difficult to recognise as signs are usually behavioural rather than physical. Signs of emotional abuse may be associated or similar to other forms of abuse so presence of emotional abuse may indicate other abuse is prevalent as well.

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

**Some of the Possible Indicators Could Include:**

May be recognised by: Inappropriate sexualised conduct, age inappropriate sexualised play or conversation, sexually harmful behaviour – contact or non-contact, self-harm, eating disorders, continual, inappropriate or excessive masturbation, anxiousness or unwillingness to remove clothes – sports/ PE etc, pain or itching in genital area, blood on underclothes, bruising in genital region and/or inner thighs etc.

**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 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.

**Some of the Possible Indicators Could Include:**

May be recognised by: Being constantly hungry; constantly tired; have a poor state of clothing; be emaciated; have untreated medical problems; be frequently late or have poor or non-attendance at school; have low self-esteem; display neurotic behaviour and/or have poor social relationships, have poor personal hygiene. A neglected child may also be apathetic, fail to thrive, or be left with or in the care of adults under the influence of alcohol or drug misuse.

**Upskirting Definition:** 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. Up skirting has been included within the Peer on Peer Abuse policy. Students are educated regarding Up skirting in safeguarding assemblies and active tutoring. Staff have been informed that this is now a criminal offence through regular training and updates. Staff are aware that this should be reported to the DSL

**Contextualised Safeguarding**

We recognise safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of school and/or can occur between children outside of school . All our staff, but particularly our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's) will consider the context within which such incidents and or behaviours occur. We recognise this is known as 'contextual safeguarding' and will consider by assessing whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that threaten their safety or welfare. In such cases we will work with safeguarding agencies and support the child and family as part of any referral process.

The Suthers School Hill School recognises and addresses areas of contextualised safeguarding as follows:

- Child Sexual Exploitation – CSE: DSL attends regular NCC safeguarding regarding key students and responds accordingly
- Radicalisation and Extremism: communication is held with Prevent Officers as required
- Criminal Child Exploitation – CCE: communication with NCC safeguarding and MASH
- Serious Youth Violence - County Lines: DSL attends County Lines Focus Groups
- Human Trafficking: as above
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour – HSB: as above

**Our staff will be alert to the potential needs for early help for a child who:**

- is disabled and has specific additional needs.
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health and care plan EHCP).
- is a young carer.
- is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups.
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home.
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves.
- is at risk of modern-day slavery, trafficking or exploitation.
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse.



- has returned home to their family from care.
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect.
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
- has an age inappropriate understanding of sexualised behaviours.
- is privately fostered.

All our staff are aware they must **always act in the 'best interest of the child'** and report or refer concerns in accordance with our school policies and procedures.

### **Children with Special Educational Needs**

We recognise that children with special educational needs (SEN) and or disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with SEN and or disabilities are especially vulnerable when identifying concerns due to their 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.

This policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children which include:

- 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 communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.
- addressing individual behaviour concerns and incidents considering the child's SEN and disabilities.

### **Taking action where concerns are identified**

Our staff recognise the difference between concerns about a child and a child in immediate danger.

If staff have concerns about a child, they will need to decide what action to take. A discussion should take place with the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead to agree a course of action.

If a child is in immediate danger or risk of harm a referral will be made immediately to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and/or the police immediately by the member of staff if required, with the Designated Safeguarding Lead being informed of the referral.

If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about alleged abuse, there are a number of actions that staff will undertake to support the child:

- The key facts will be established in language that the child understands, and the child's words will be used in clarifying/expanding what has been said.
- No promises will be made to the child, e.g. to keep secrets.
- Staff will stay calm and be available to listen.
- Staff will actively listen with the utmost care to what the child is saying.
- Where questions are asked, this should be done without pressurising, and only using open questions;
  - Leading questions should be avoided as much as possible

- Questioning should not be extensive or repetitive
- Staff will not put words in the child's mouth but will subsequently note the main points carefully.
- A full written record will be kept by the staff duly signed and dated, including the time the conversation with the child took place, outline what was said, comment on the child's body language etc.
- It is not appropriate for staff to make children write statements about abuse that may have happened to them or get them to sign the staff record.
- Staff will reassure the child and let them know that they were right to inform them and inform the child that this information will now have to be passed on.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be immediately informed, unless the disclosure has been made to them.
- Information should be shared with children's social care without delay, either to the child's own social worker or to the MASH. Children's Social Care will liaise with the police where required, which will ensure an appropriate police officer response rather than a uniformed response.
- The Police would only therefore be contacted directly in an emergency.

**Staff should never attempt to carry out an investigation of suspected child abuse by interviewing the child or any others involved especially if a criminal act is thought to have occurred. The only people who should investigate child abuse and harm are Social Care, Police or the NSPCC.**

## **Confidentiality**

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential; however, a member of staff must never guarantee confidentiality to children; children will not be given promises that any information about an allegation will not be shared.

Where there is a child protection concern it will be passed immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or to children's social care. When a child is in immediate danger children's social care/the police will be contacted.

The Headteacher or Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead will disclose personal information about a pupil to other members of staff, including the level of involvement of other agencies, only on a 'need to know' basis.

All staff are aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children. They are aware that the Data Protection Act 1998 should not be a barrier to sharing of information where failure to do so would result in a child being placed at risk of harm.

We acknowledge further guidance can be found by visiting Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp>

## **Information Sharing**

Effective sharing of information between practitioners and local organisations and agencies is essential for early identification of need, assessment and service provision to keep children safe. Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) have highlighted that missed opportunities to record and thereby understand the significance of sharing information in a timely manner can have severe

consequences for the safety and welfare of children (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 para 23).

We will adopt the information sharing principles detailed in statutory safeguarding guidance contained within:

- *DfE KCSiE 2020 paragraphs 82 to 88 and paragraph 94 has been updated to further clarify about GDPR and withholding information.*
- *HM Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 Para 23 to 27 and on pages 20 and 21.*
- *HM Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (which has been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.*
- *Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Policy and Practice Guidance.*

GDPR Training has been undertaken by our safeguarding team and by the School Manager and is overseen by the Trust Data Champion.

**Records and Monitoring** (KCSiE 2020 paragraphs 55, 87,88, 240 to 243, Part Five, Annex B page 100 to 101)

At The Suthers School, we use the online Safeguarding Portal as accessed on the Nova Gateway. We also have a number of safeguarding files which are locked away in a secure cabinet away from all classrooms separate from the main student files. Secure delivery of files to transfer destination is arranged and a receipt is obtained to advise the file has been received. The Electronic Safeguarding Portal also allows us to record support from external agencies.

Any concerns about a child will be recorded in writing within 24 hours. All records will provide a factual and evidence-based account and there will be accurate recording of any actions. Records will be signed, dated and, where appropriate, witnessed. Where an opinion or professional judgement is recorded this should be clearly stated as such.

At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school be asked to or consider taking photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person; this type of behaviour could lead to the staff member being taken into managing allegations procedures. The body map below should be used in accordance with recording guidance.

Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to the appropriate safeguarding services e.g. MASH or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.

A chronology will be kept in the main school file prior to the commencement of a concern file. Staff, particularly pastoral staff, will record any minor concerns on the chronology and will take responsibility for alerting the Designated Safeguarding Lead should the number of concerns rise or, in their professional judgement, become significant. At the point at which a concern file (see below) is commenced then the chronology can be transferred to the concern file.

Safeguarding, child protection and welfare concerns will be recorded and kept in a separate secure file known as a 'concern' file (formerly referred to as a child protection file), which will be securely stored and away from the main pupil file. The main pupil file should have a **red C** in the top right-hand corner to denote a separate file exists

Our school will ensure all or files will be available for external scrutiny for example by a regulatory agency or because of a serious case review or audit.

### **Why recording is important**

Our staff will be encouraged to understand why it is important that recording is comprehensive and accurate and what the messages from serious case reviews are in terms of recording and sharing information. It is often when a chronology of information is pieced together that the level of concern escalates or the whole or wider picture becomes known.

The Suthers School are transitioning to an electronic recording system known as the Safeguarding Portal App. Although, paper 'concerns' and 'child protection' files still exist, we are moving to the electronic recording system. This is inspected annually by the safeguarding governor and Nova Inspection team. We acknowledge without information being recorded it can be lost. This could be crucial information, the importance of which is not always necessarily apparent at the time. On occasions, this information could be crucial evidence to safeguard a child or be evidence in future criminal prosecutions.

### **The Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CiN) or Confidential file (KCSiE 2020 paragraphs 55, 87,88, 240 to 243, and Annex B pages 100 to 101).**

The establishment of a Child Protection, CiN or Confidential Safeguarding file, which is separate from the child's main school file, is an important principle in terms of storing and collating information about children which relates to either a child protection or safeguarding concern or an accumulation of concerns about a child's welfare which are outside of the usual range of concerns which relate to ordinary life events. It should be borne in mind that what constitutes a 'concern' for one child may not be a 'concern' for another and the child's particular circumstances will need to be taken into account for example if a child is subject to a child protection plan, CiN plan or has looked after status (LAC). Professional judgement will therefore be an important factor when making this decision and will need clear links between pastoral staff and those with Designated Safeguarding Lead responsibilities in school.

A 'child protection' or 'confidential' file should be commenced in the event of:

- A referral to MASH/Children's Social Care.
- A number of minor concerns on the child's main school file.
- Any child open to social care.

All 'child protection' or 'confidential' file should contain:

- A front sheet.
- A chronology.
- A record of concern in more detail and body map, where appropriate.
- A record of concerns and issues shared by others.

The school will keep either written paper or electronic records of concerns about children even where there is no need to refer the matter to MASH/Children's Social Care (or similar) immediately but these records will be kept within the separate concerns file.

Records will be kept up to date and reviewed regularly by the Snr Designated Safeguarding Lead to evidence and support actions taken by staff in discharging their safeguarding arrangements.

Original notes will be retained (but clearly identified as such) as this is a contemporaneous account; they may be important in any criminal proceedings arising from current or historical allegations of abuse or neglect.

At The Suthers School, our DSLs have access to the Safeguarding Portal for recording all concerns, meeting and action points. Access is limited to these files for security purposes.

The 'confidential' file can be active or non-active in terms of monitoring i.e. a child is no longer LAC, subject to a child protection plan or EHAF and this level of activity can be recorded on the front sheet as a start and end date. If future concerns arise, they can be re-activated and indicated as such on the front sheet and on the chronology as new information arises.

Where children leave the school we will ensure their confidential/child protection file is transferred to the new school as soon as possible (this should be within five days). This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained. It would be good practice, wherever possible, for the file to be hand-delivered to the receiving designated safeguarding lead with a discussion taking place.

There should be a smooth and safe transition for the child.

Those schools that use electronic case record management systems should continue to have good dialogue between the Snr Designated Safeguarding Leads to ensure children subject to child protection and safeguarding concerns are well supported and any transition arrangements or change of school and or education provision should be seamless.

## **Recording Practice**

Timely and accurate recording will take place when there are any issues regarding a child. A recording of each and every incident or concern for the child will be made, including any telephone calls to other professionals. These will also be recorded on the chronology and kept within the child protection file for that child, as over time they are likely to help identify any patterns or emerging risks and needs. This will include any contact from other agencies who may wish to discuss concerns relating to a child. Actions will be agreed, and roles and responsibility of each agency will be clarified, and outcomes recorded.

The chronology will be brief and log activity; the full recording will be on the record of concern.

Further detailed recording will be added to the record of concern and will be signed and dated. Records will include an analysis of the event or concerns and will take account of the holistic needs of the child, and any historical information held on the child's file.

Support and advice will be sought from social care, or early help whenever necessary. In this way a picture can emerge, and this will assist in promoting an evidence-based assessment and determining any action(s) that needs to be taken.

This may include no further action, whether an EHAF should be undertaken, or whether a referral should be made to MASH/Children's Social Care in-line with the NCC Pathway to Provision Version 8 document published March 2019, or any later edition made available by Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Such robust practice across child protection and in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children will assist the school and DSL team in the early identification of any concerns which may require addressing further and the prevention of future harm, risk or abuse.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will have a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm (through the concern file and through an ongoing dialogue with pastoral staff). They will ensure that we contribute to assessments of need and support multi-agency plans for those children.

**Educating Young People – Opportunities to teach safeguarding** (KCSiE 2020 paragraphs 93 to 95).

As a school we will to teach children in an age appropriate way about youth produced imagery, on-line risks associated with social networking to prevent harm by providing them with the skills, attributes and knowledge to help them navigate risks.

This approach to tackling sensitive issues promotes a whole school approach to safeguarding giving children the space to explore key issues and the confidence to seek the support of adults should they encounter problems.

This issue will be taught as part of a wider RSHE programme, as RSHE becomes mandatory in all schools from September 2020.

The work that we do therefore will include issues such as:

- Communication.
- understanding healthy relationships, including trust.
- understanding and respecting the concept of genuine consent.
- understanding our rights (especially our collective right to be safe and to feel safe).
- recognising abusive and coercive language and behaviours. Regular updates are provided to parents regarding online safety and an extensive personal development curriculum is provided through personal development drop down days, through form time and regularly in assemblies.

Children and parents are made aware of on-line safety and how to keep themselves safe when using on-line resources and social media platforms, including Microsoft Teams when learning from home, in order to minimise the safeguarding risks. Information is discussed with pupils and emailed to parents about where they can seek advice, help and support.

**Helplines and reporting**

- Children can talk to a ChildLine counsellor 24 hours a day about anything that is worrying them by ringing 0800 11 11 or in an online chat at <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>
- Where staff members feel unable to raise an issue with their employer, or feel they have a genuine concern that is not being addressed we acknowledge they may wish to consider whistleblowing channels. Likewise, if parents and carers are concerned about their child, they can contact the NSPCC Helpline by ringing 0800 028 028 0295, or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Appendix 1 - NCC LA Flow Chart 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused
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Appendix 2 -Template: Body Maps Guidance and Body Maps
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## Appendix 1

### Name of School/Academy Child Protection/ Safeguarding Flow Chart 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused, at risk of harm or neglect'

#### Member of staff, volunteer has concerns about a child's welfare

- Be alert to signs of abuse and question unusual behaviour.

#### Where a child or young person discloses abuse or neglect

- Listen to what they say, keep calm, reassure they are right to tell, and you will take action to help keep them safe. **DO NOT DELAY take any immediate necessary action to protect the child.**
- Inform them you need to share the information and what you are going to do next
- Do not promise confidentiality, you will need to share/ report the information onwards.
- Do not question further or inform the alleged abuser.

#### Discuss concerns with the Snr Designated/ Named Safeguarding Lead

- The Safeguarding Lead will consider further actions including consultation with Children's Social Care/ MASH (if a new concern).
- Concerns and discussion, decisions and reasons for decision should be recorded in writing and a 'confidential concerns' or 'child protection' file should be opened, stored in line with the school child protection policy.

#### Still have concerns? Refer to MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) Social Care

Have child/ families' personal details to hand and be clear about concern/ allegations.

#### Children's Social Care

During Office Hour, Monday to Friday  
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub  
(MASH) Tel:- 0300 500 80 90

If the child is at immediate risk  
TEL: 101 and ask for assistance

Record all decisions and actions, working to agreed outcomes and within timescales. Escalate any emerging threats/concerns by adopting Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures –

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp)

Out of hours  
Emergency  
Duty Team  
5.00pm – 8.30am  
Tel 0300 4564546

NSPCC Whistle  
blowing Tel:  
0800 028 0285

#### Safeguarding concern Resolved /no longer held

Support has been agreed, record decision, any follow up actions.

#### Unmet needs identified

Decide what actions are needed to support the child.

#### Consult with child young person, family and relevant agencies:

Agree support, refer to NSCP guidance 'Pathway to Provision' Version 8

**Contacts: For any allegations/concerns regarding an adult who works with (in either paid/ voluntarily) employment with children contact the LA Designated Officer (LADO) Tel:- 0115 8041272.**

**Cheryl Stollery – LA Safeguarding Children in Education Officer Tel:- 0115 8041047**

**This flow chart is intended as a brief guide. Please refer to our Child Protection Policy**

## **Appendix 2**

### **Body Map Guidance for Schools**

**Medical assistance should be sought where appropriate.**

Body Maps should be used to document and illustrate visible signs of harm and physical injuries.

Always use a black pen (never a pencil) and do not use correction fluid or any other eraser.

Do not remove clothing for the purpose of the examination unless the injury site is freely available because of treatment.

**\*At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school be asked to or consider taking photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person, this type of behaviour could lead to the staff member being taken into managing allegations procedures, the body map below should be used in accordance with recording guidance. Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to the appropriate safeguarding services, e.g. MASH or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.**

**When you notice an injury to a child, try to record the following information in respect of each mark identified e.g. red areas, swelling, bruising, cuts, lacerations and wounds, scalds and burns:**

- Exact site of injury on the body, e.g. upper outer arm/left cheek.
- Size of injury - in appropriate centimetres or inches.
- Approximate shape of injury, e.g. round/square or straight line.
- Colour of injury - if more than one colour, say so.
- Is the skin broken?
- Is there any swelling at the site of the injury, or elsewhere?
- Is there a scab/any blistering/any bleeding?
- Is the injury clean or is there grit/fluff etc.?
- Is mobility restricted as a result of the injury?
- Does the site of the injury feel hot?
- Does the child feel hot?
- Does the child feel pain?
- Has the child's body shape changed/are they holding themselves differently?

Importantly the date and time of the recording must be stated as well as the name and designation of the person making the record. Add any further comments as required.

**Ensure First Aid is provided where required and record**

A copy of the body map should be kept on the child's child protection file.





# BODYMAP

**(This must be completed at time of observation)**

Names for Child:

.....

Date of  
Birth:

.....

Name of  
Worker:

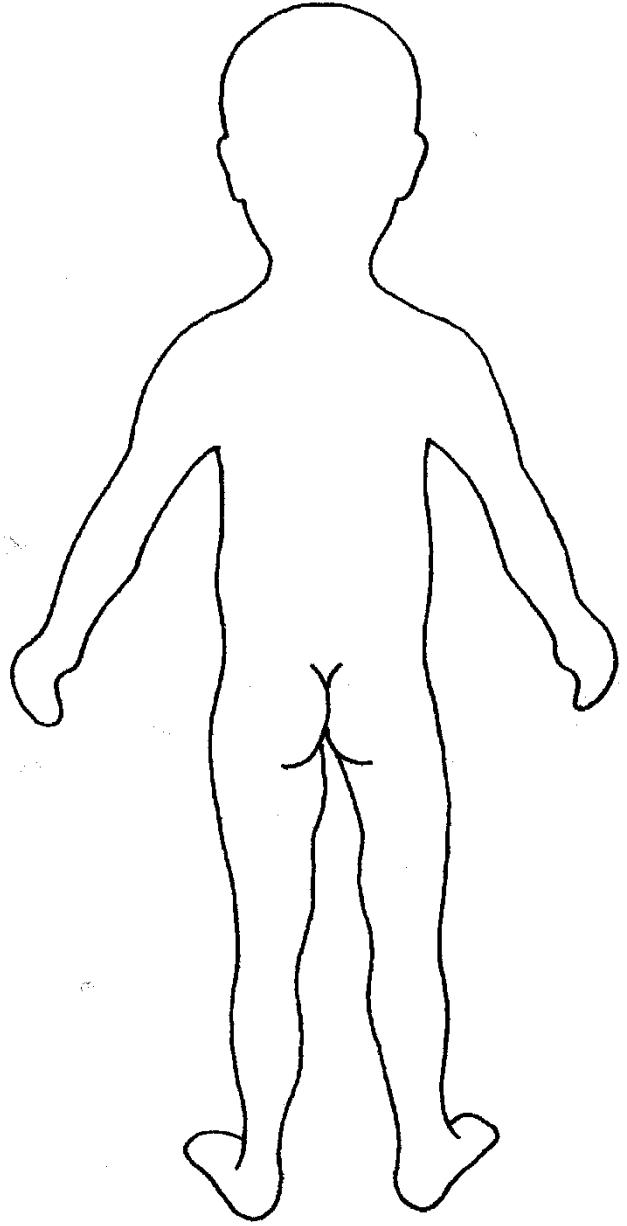
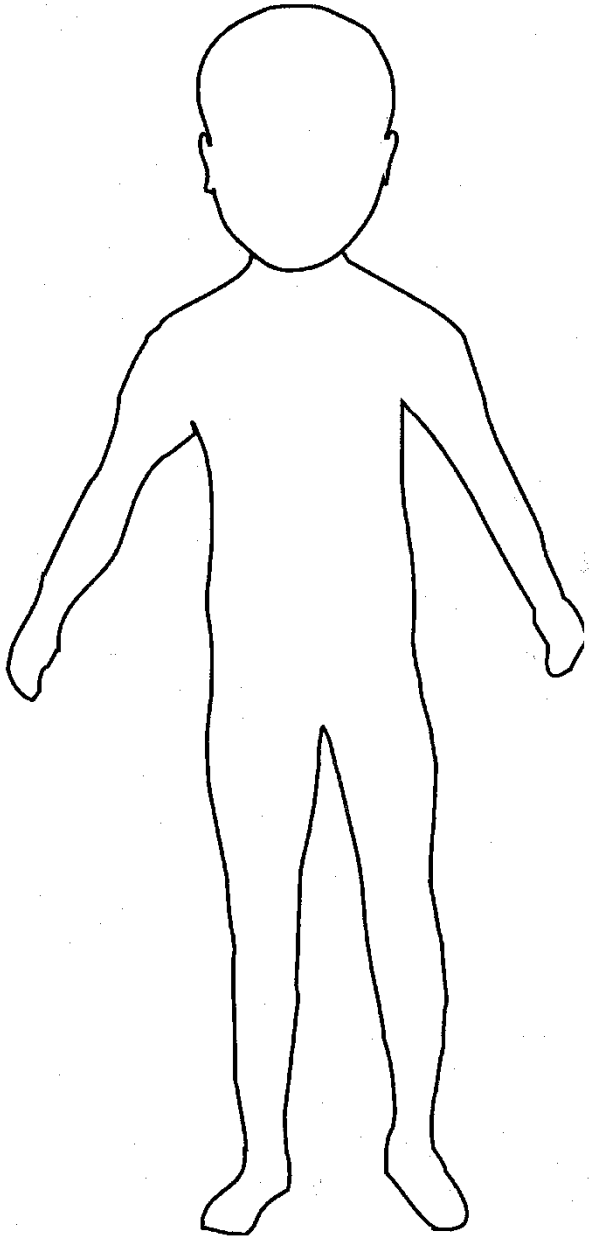
.....

Agency:

.....

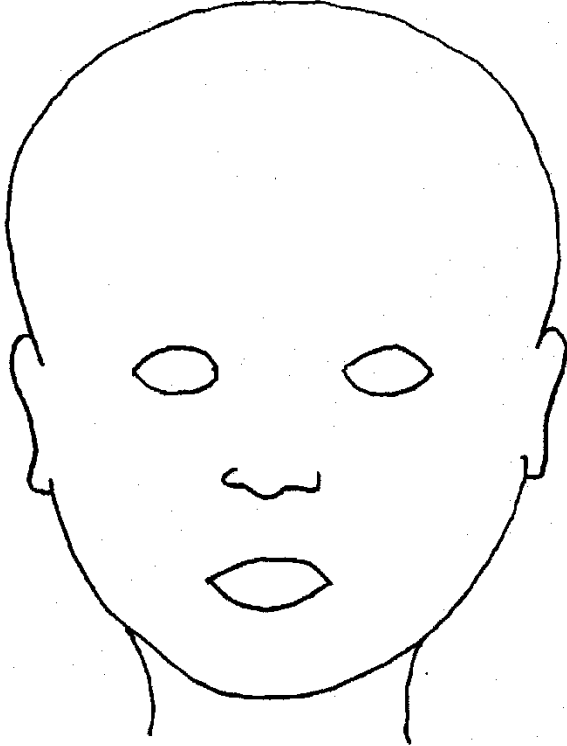
Date and time of  
observation:

.....

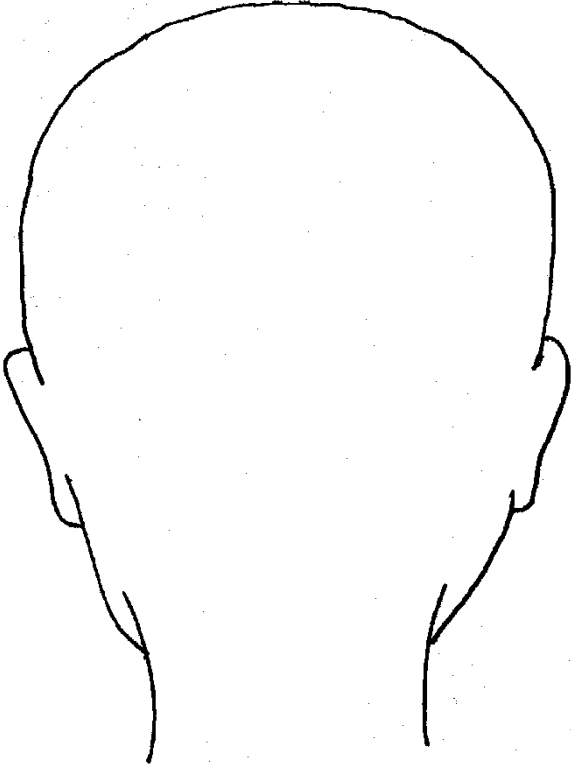


Name of  
Child:

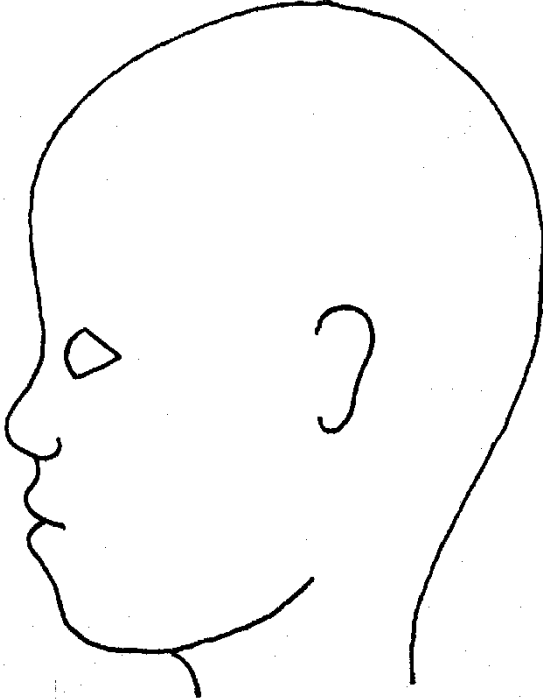
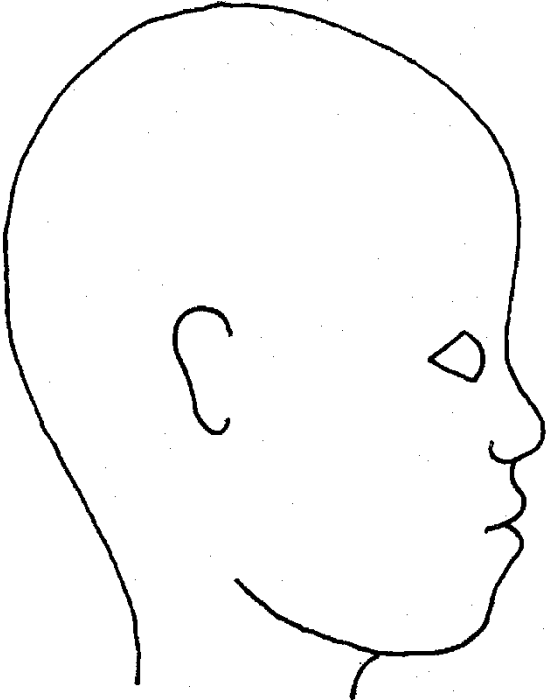
Date of  
observation:



**FRONT**



**BACK**

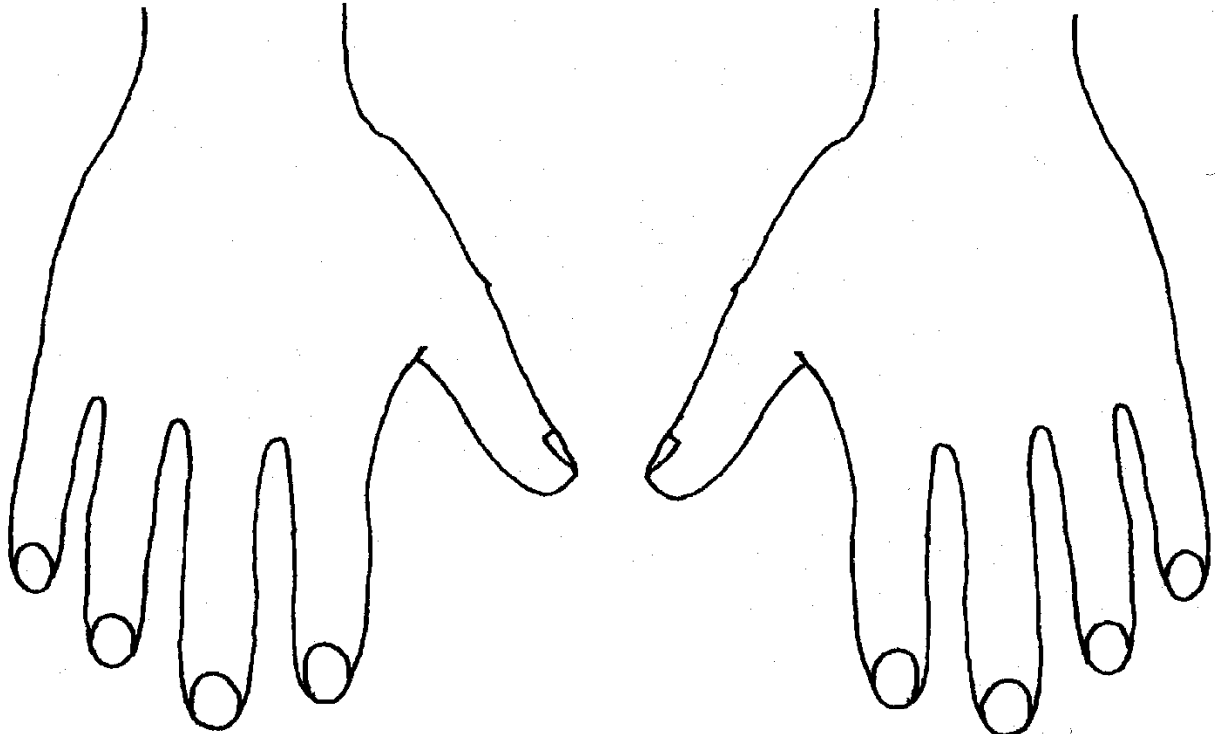


**RIGHT**

**LEFT**

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of  
observation: \_\_\_\_\_



R

L

**BACK**



R



L

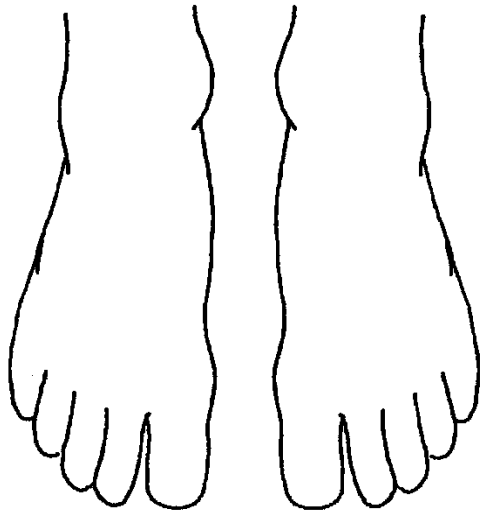
**PALM**

Name of  
Child:

.....

Date of  
observation:

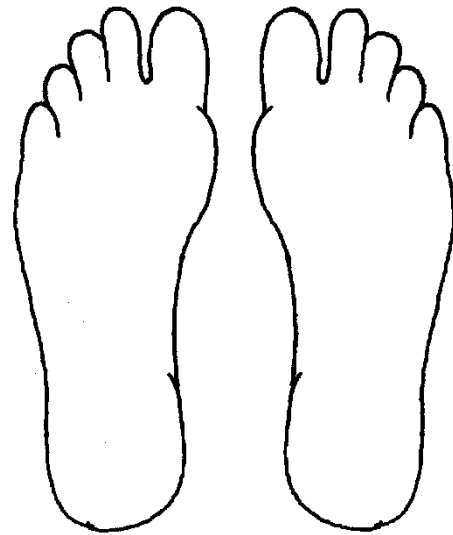
.....



R

TOP

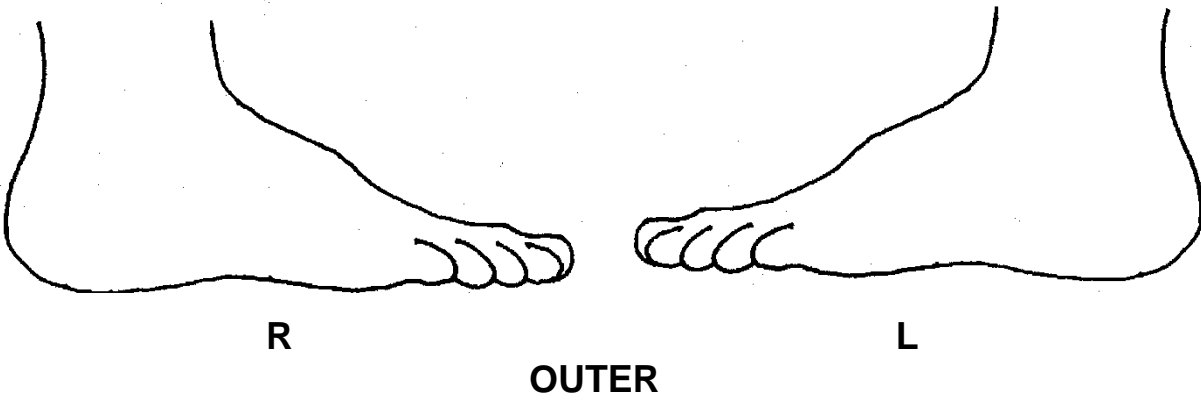
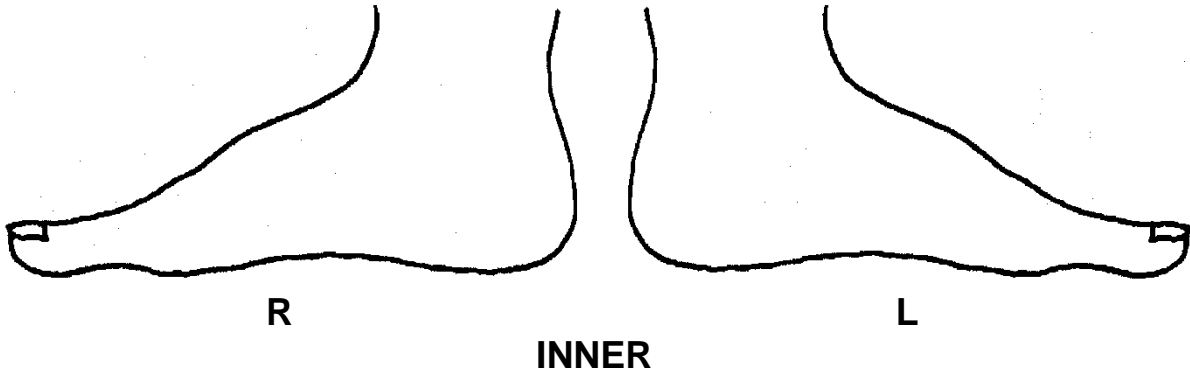
L



R

BOTTOM

L



Printed Name and  
Signature of  
worker:

Date:

Time:

Role of Worker

Other information: