



The Safeguarding & Protection of Young People in Our Care Policy (R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School)

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Principles

Safeguarding is defined by the Children's Act 1989 and Joint Chief Inspectors Report on Arrangements to Safeguard Children (2002) as meaning that:

- Agencies [and organisations] working with children and young people take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to the individual's welfare are minimised.
- Where there are concerns about children and young people's welfare, all agencies [and organisations] take all appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures, working in partnership with other local agencies.

The basic principles on which this policy stands include:

1. The welfare of the young person is paramount.
2. R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School will work together with other relevant agencies.
3. R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School will be open with parents as long as this does not put the young person at risk.
4. Confidentiality is important in all cases, but not at the expense of the welfare of the young person.
5. R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School accepts the duty of care to all young people with which it works and will ensure that the activities it runs and the environment it works in are safe.
6. R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School recognise the existence of unidentified abused children and that some of these may present in activities organised by R.E.A.L.
7. Each staff member, volunteer or staff contracted from outside agencies is responsible for ensuring that the policy is translated into action through his or her daily practice.



R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School and its partners will ensure that all staff and volunteers interacting with young people are aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding the welfare of the young people. This will be done through providing training and support in helping them understand the needs of the young people with whom we work, as well as ensuring they understand their individual and organisational responsibilities when working with young people.

R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School will facilitate regular updating of training for all staff engaged in delivering its services. It is the responsibility of all members of staff to ensure that their working knowledge is updated at this training. The starting point for this training will be within the induction programme for all new staff engaged in the activities of R.E.A.L.

Commitment to Procedures

R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School is committed to the principles which have been outlined and will implement them through the guidelines laid out in this policy. Each staff member is responsible for ensuring that the policy is translated into action through his or her daily practice.

Legal Basis of R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School's Role

The role of R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School is not to investigate these matters. As issues arise, R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School's role will be to record events. All concerns should be referred immediately back to the R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School's Designated Safeguarding Officers. From there, information will be passed on to either the Children's Social Care, or the Police. If contact cannot be made advice will be sought from the Strategic Safeguarding Coordinator.

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Officer and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding officers

It is the role of the DSO and/or deputy DSOs to follow up all potential Safeguarding issues and make referrals to other agencies when appropriate. During term time the designated safeguarding lead and / or a deputy are always be available (during school or college hours) for staff in the school or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. At least one member of the DSO team will be available to contact during any school led out of hours/out of term activities.



All deputy DSO's will be trained to the same standards as the DSO and complete refresher training at least every 2 years. They will also take part in internal Safeguarding forum meetings and LA organised events in order to keep up-to-date with issues and serious case reviews etc.

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Governor

It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Governor to visit the school and ensure that all Safeguarding procedures and responsibilities are carried out in an appropriate manner, according to local and National Guidance. This Governor will liaise regularly with the DSO and Deputy DSO's to inspect practice and support them to keep all children and young people safe.

The Role of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the link to R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School

It is the role of the Executive Leadership Team to disseminate of information and 'lessons learnt' from either company practice, local serious case reviews (through the local Children's Safeguarding Board), or national legislation and guidance. The Executive Leadership Team will have an overview of all safeguarding incidents within R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School to enable staff training to be targeted and meaningful.

Safer Recruitment

R.E.A.L. ensures safe recruitment by undertaking the following procedures;

- All those involved in recruitment have completed safer recruitment training.
- Qualification checks.
- Enhanced DBS checks.
- National Insurance and photo ID information.
- Reference checks.
- For qualified teachers only, teachers will be subject to a prohibition check of the teacher reference number.
- Debarred by association.

All registered Governors and Proprietors of the R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and added to the single central register.

An accompanying policy outlines our safer recruitment commitments in full detail, including



all procedures and practice for recruitment.

Records of Issues and Incidents

The young person at the centre of any safeguarding issue has a need for confidentiality. Therefore, R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School has a need for security to ensure this confidentiality. However, this is not absolute confidentiality, and all records should be available for inspection by any investigating body.

All safeguarding incidents will be recorded using an agreed format and will be stored securely in a separate pupil safeguarding file. However, where concerns are raised and recorded but do not meet thresholds for referrals to relevant agencies, information will be stored on the pupils' central file.

Sharing of Information with R.E.A.L.

No one will make decisions within the R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School about safeguarding issues on their own. The only decision to make is whether to refer the matter on to an investigating body. This decision will normally be made through discussion between the staff member with concerns and the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

Relationships with Parents

R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School wishes to preserve its good relationships with the parents of the young people associated with it, both as service users and volunteers. However, the first principle on which R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School's work is based is that the welfare of the young person is paramount. Consequently, R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School will consult and confer with parents of the young person involved in Safeguarding issues openly and honestly, except in circumstances where the young person's welfare may be harmed by doing so.

Maintaining High Standards

R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School places people in positions of responsibility for young people. Consequently, R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School seeks to do all that is reasonable to ensure the good character of all employed in delivering its services, including volunteers, and the safety of



young people. Therefore recruitment and induction procedures are necessarily robust and all staff and key volunteers undertake an enhanced DBS check. R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School recognises however that these checks are not a guarantee that the checked person's behaviour will always continue to be appropriate. All staff are responsible for maintaining high standards of behaviour when engaged in R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School's provision and are encouraged to raise their own concerns of others' inappropriate behaviour with the Safeguarding Coordinator. All staff will wear photographic identification whilst engaged in the work of R.E.A.L. and this will include details of their DBS certificate should it be requested by external parties. We maintain a single central register with all necessary details which is updated, monitored and reviewed.

Reporting of Attendance

Any non-attendance will be reported within half an hour of the start of a session. R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School support 'first day response' calls where required. The appropriate Learning Manager will contact the parents/carers if they can't make contact by 12pm, or 3pm (if an afternoon only session) on the day of absence and they will pass their concerns onto the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

Learners Absconding from Education

If a learner is suspected of leaving a R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School Learning Hub, or community venue without permission:

- The member of staff will alert the relevant Learning Manager. If the Learning Manager is not available then the central office so they are able to inform the relevant Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).
- If the child appears to be missing but there is no evidence that he / she has left the site, a quick but thorough search of the site should then be conducted. If at a community venue, inform the relevant manager to ensure all areas have been checked.
- If there is no doubt that the pupil has absconded, the Learning Manager, or DSO will contact the pupil's parent/carer/care home to inform them. If parents/carers have the learner mobile they will attempt to contact them to find out where they are. If this is not successful a decision will be made about phoning the police. It is the responsibility of the last person who saw the learner to phone the police. The DSO, or Learning Manager will give the staff member advice and support with this if required.
- The Learning Manager, or DSO, should then inform the relevant commissioner for the



pupil and inform them of the procedures being followed. Other professionals may be involved in the care of the pupil (such as Children's Social Care, or Residential Social Care staff), and they too should be informed of the incident at the earliest possible point.

- Staff to follow the pupil (if safe to do so, or they are in sight) at a safe distance and to keep the Learning Manager informed. Where possible, the member of staff following the student should remain in contact with the Learning Manager, or DSO, via a mobile phone. The Learning Manager, or DSO, will then, if appropriate, allocate further staff members to go and collect the learner and return them to a safe and agreed location. Staff should not run after the learner as this can cause anxiety levels for the learner to rise and may result in a more dangerous situation.

- If relevant and with authorisation from the Learning Manager or DSO, staff to support further searches of known places the learner would visit.

- It is important that following an incident the issues that arise are addressed and the Learning Manager should: Review the individual risk assessment for the learner involved. Where appropriate, talk through the incident with the learner and parents/carers involved. Ensure that a record is kept of the discussion held with the learner in their running records. Complete a significant incident form (a copy of which should be placed in the learner's central file). Keep all colleagues informed and discuss the incident in curriculum planning meetings and/or in support and supervision. Review procedures for the individual every half term to ensure appropriate control measures are in place and that all staff are fully informed.

Where learners have been absent for a prolonged period of time they will not be taken off roll without written confirmation from the receiving school or an officer from the relevant Local Authority (to include Social Care).

Support for Staff and Volunteers Involved in Safeguarding Issues

R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School recognises that safeguarding issues are likely to be stressful for all staff involved and will seek to provide a reasonable and appropriate level of support. If any members of staff are cited in any way as part of an incident they will be removed from the situation immediately.

If any members of staff have concerns about anything that could be a safeguarding issue, they will talk to their line manager, or anyone who is responsible for managing the education program



of the young person. All concerns will be recorded using the agreed school format.

Training for Staff, Volunteers and Governors

All staff and volunteers have a probationary period (this is not applicable to Governors) in which they will receive training and guidance, support and supervision. It will be the responsibility of the management to ensure that staff and volunteers successfully complete their probationary period. If there is any doubt as to the ability of the volunteer or staff member, a further probationary period may be applied or other measures taken.

Training will be given on:

- The duty of care - including the duty to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- Training on what constitutes abuse and how to recognise it.
- The procedural approach of how and to whom to report abuse if discovered or suspected.
- Contact information for appropriate persons, whom staff and volunteers can approach if they know or suspect that an abuser may be a member of R.E.A.L.
- Knowledge and understanding of what happens when abuse is reported.
- Guidance on supporting distressed young people.
- Prevent Strategies
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and all other national guidance as cited in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', Part One.
- E-safety including sexting

Safeguarding of young people with SEND

A very high percentage of learners admitted to the roll of R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School have an EHCP or some form of Special Educational Need and Disability. It is recognised that additional barriers can exist with this group of learners when recognising abuse and neglect.

These barriers can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barrier



R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School recognises these potential barriers and takes them into account when dealing with potential Safeguarding issues. Our knowledge of the learner's individual needs, and our relationships with learners, are paramount to any issue we deal with and inform our practice at all times.

Supervision of Young People

The young people in R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School's care will be properly supervised at all times and R.E.A.L. will ensure that there is an appropriate level of male and female staff cover if working with a mixed gender group.

Visitor Policy

R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School operate from a variety of sites across a variety of locations. Some sites are within the community and are accessed by members of the public. R.E.A.L. staff will wear their identification badges at all times and ensure the safety of their learner.

Any visitors to a R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School site will report to reception in all cases where they will state the purpose for their visit, who they have been invited by, and will be required to sign in. Visitors will not be left unsupervised at any time whilst on site, and will be required to wear their identification badge. R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School staff members will challenge any unknown adult, without identification, without exception.

When parents visit the young person's Learning Manager will accompany them at all times and introduce them to members of staff so they are identified and the purpose of their visit stated. This is to ensure a warm and welcoming visit.

Dealing with disclosure

This is a quick reference guide to working with young people under the Safeguarding Principles

1. An open and honest disclosure of abuse by a young person to a member of staff is an indication of the high level of esteem and trust that the young person has for the member of staff. Staff should reciprocate that respect by supporting the young person appropriately.
2. Any allegation of any form of abuse by a young person must be taken seriously. This can also



include any allegations made by a learner against another learner.

3. As soon as you have a Safeguarding concern:

- Do not question the young person - just listen.
- Do not promise confidentiality; explain your responsibilities.
- Do not use leading questions.
- Do not stop a young person who is freely recalling significant events.
- Do not ask the young person to repeat their story to a colleague.
- Do not ask the young person to write their story down.
- Do not conduct your own investigation into any incident .
- Do not make statements to any media or any member of the public.
- Keep control; the young person will be depending on you.
- Keep an open mind.
- Respond to the young person's emotional state appropriately.
- Beware of your own interpretation of what you hear.
- If the child is in immediate danger all staff MUST take emergency action
- Contact the Learning Manager / Provision Manager who will then contact Designated Safeguarding Officer to discuss the disclosure and take further advice.
- As soon as possible record information including times and those in attendance, as well as what was said.
- Record all subsequent events up to the time of Police or children's Social Care intervention in your own handwriting. Sign and date each page.
- Support the young person's feelings and manage your own, or seek support if you require it.
- All external enquiries (from media or public) must be directed towards the Designated Safeguarding Officer, who will in turn seek advice from the Strategic Safeguarding Coordinator

Follow this simple checklist for student safeguarding, talk to the professional services, make sure R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School is informed and a detailed log of events is kept as described above.

By following these guidelines, be assured that what you do is right and you are following the best procedure for supporting the young person.



As an organisation we fully understand the trauma involved in dealing with disclosure. Discuss



any personal needs initially with the Learning Manager / your Line Manager / or the Designated Safeguarding co-ordinator and make any arrangements for further support you may have. Do not feel isolated in these matters.

Guidance information for allegations made against a member of staff or volunteer

There are strict local authority procedures around the management of allegations made against a member of staff or volunteer working for an organisation. So that allegations made against a member of staff are dealt with objectively and without prejudice, the local authority enforces that any allegation against a member of staff within an organisation must then be discussed with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).



Guidance information for staff and volunteers

Categories of young person abuse—definitions to support your work

It is accepted that any definition has its limitations in terms of accuracy and relevance. Bearing this in mind, the following definitions are offered to help our understanding.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the young person's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect the young person from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical aid or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a young person's basic emotional needs.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a young person. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a young person whom they are looking after. This is commonly described using terms such as induced/fabricated illness by carer or Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy or more recently "facilitated illness".

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the young person is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non contact activities such as involving a young person looking at, or in the production of pornographic material, or watching sexual activities, or encouraging a young person to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.



Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a young person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the young person's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a young person that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on a young person. It may involve causing a young person frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a young person. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a young person, though it may occur alone.

Child Sexual Exploitation

The sexual exploitation of children and young people (CSE) under-18 is defined as that which:

‘involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.’ (Department for Education, 2012)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of abuse which involves children (male and female, of different ethnic origins and of different ages) receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Schools are well placed to prevent, identify and respond to children at risk of sexual exploitation.

Who is at risk?

Child sexual exploitation can happen to any young person from any background. Although the research suggests that the females are more vulnerable to CSE, boys and young men are also victims of this type of abuse.



The characteristics common to all victims of CSE are not those of age, ethnicity or gender, rather their powerlessness and vulnerability. Victims often do not recognise that they are being exploited because they will have been groomed by their abuser(s). As a result, victims do not make informed choices to enter into, or remain involved in, sexually exploitative situations but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or fear. Sexual exploitation can happen face to face and it can happen online. It can also occur between young people.

In all its forms, CSE is child abuse and should be treated as a child safeguarding issue.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The World Health Organisation defines FGM as “all procedures (not operations) which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons” (1996).

It is illegal in the UK to subject a child to FGM or to take a child abroad to undergo FGM. A child for whom FGM is planned is at risk of significant harm through physical abuse and emotional abuse, which is categorised by some also as sexual abuse. Despite the harm it causes, many women from FGM practising communities consider FGM normal to protect their cultural identity. Although FGM is practiced by secular communities it is most often claimed to be carried out in accordance with religious beliefs. However, neither the Bible nor the Koran supports the practice of FGM. In addition to giving religious reasons for subjecting girls to FGM adults may say that they are acting in a child's best interests because it: - Brings status and respect to the girl. - Preserves a girl's virginity / chastity. - Is a right of passage. - Gives a girl social acceptance especially for marriage. - Upholds the family honour. - Helps girls and women to be clean and hygienic.

The age at which girls are subjected to FGM varies greatly, from shortly after birth to any time up to adulthood. The average age is 10-12 years. Health implications can range from severe pain and emotional/psychological trauma to, in some cases, death.

It is our duty as a school to ensure that:

- Staff and governors at the school have an awareness of FGM and understand the signs indicating that a girl has undergone FGM or is at risk of this practice.
- Follow Local Authority procedures when a girl is at risk of or is suspected to have undergone FGM. These procedures include the referral to MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) and reporting to the police when known cases have occurred with girls under the age of 18.



Preventing Radicalisation

Preventing violent extremism by countering the ideology of extremism and by identifying those who are being drawn into radicalism has for some time formed part of our approach to safeguarding. The Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 now imposes a duty on a wide range of bodies including all schools. Our practice in this area is taken from the revised Prevent Duty Guidance. As a school, we are expected to:-

- assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism and have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation.
- Work in partnership with our commissioning LA's by ensuring our safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the LA Safeguarding Children's Board
- Work in partnership with parents/carers by ensuring effective engagement with them when concerns are raised about their children.
- Ensure staff are trained to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and challenge extreme ideas.
- Ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools.
- Understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel Programme, the panel that reviews and refers individuals to programmes that challenge extremist ideology

Compliance will be monitored through various inspection regimes such as Ofsted.

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery

Youth produced sexual imagery is the definition R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School use for the activities usually known as sexting. These activities are those covered by the 'the sending or posting of sexually suggestive images, including nude or semi nude photographs via mobiles or via the internet' Imagery and images cover photographs and moving images, sent by young people, images they, or another young person may have created.

The law states that the making, possessing and and distributing any imagery of someone under



18 which is indecent is illegal, and this includes imagery of yourself.

However, R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School do not want to criminalise young people, and certain incidents can be treated as a safeguarding issue but only in very specific circumstances.

An immediate referral to the police and/or Children's' Social Care will be made if:

1. The incident involves an adult 2. There is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or

groomed, or concerns about their capacity to give informed consent 3. What you know about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are

unusual for the young person's developmental and/or cognitive age 4. The imagery involves sexual acts and any young person under the age of 13 5. There is reason to believe a learner is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of

the imagery e.g presents as suicidal, or is self-harming

Where a referral is not made, the following risks will be considered when treating the incident as a safeguarding concern, and, dependent on the outcome, a referral may still be made:

1. Why was the imagery shared? Was the young person coerced or put under pressure to produce the imagery? 2. Who has shared the imagery? Where has the imagery been shared? Was it

shared/received with the knowledge of the pupil in the imagery? 3. Are there any adults involved in the sharing of the imagery? 4. What was the impact on the pupils involved? 5. Do the pupils involved have additional vulnerabilities? 6. Does the young person understand consent? 7. Has the young person taken part in this kind of activity before?

The youth produced imagery should not be viewed by adults, unless:

- Is the only way to make a decision about whether to involve other agencies
- Is necessary to report the image to the web site, app or suitable reporting agency to have it removed or to support the young person in making a report
- It is unavoidable because the young person has presented the image, or it has been found on the school network.

If the imagery is to be viewed these points will be followed:



Do's

✓ Discuss the decision with the headteacher ✓ Ensure that the viewing takes place with another member of the safeguarding team ✓ Ensure viewing takes place on the school premises ✓ Ensure viewing is done by a member of the same sex ✓ Record the viewing of the imagery in the schools safeguarding records

Don'ts

x Never print, copy or share the imagery x View unnecessarily x Put the child at further risk x Allow other people than the DSL to view the imagery

All decisions taken will be recorded in a running log, and any viewing of imagery for the reasons above will be recorded as a safeguarding, and e-safety incident and will follow the procedures for the reporting of such incidents.

Student Safeguarding Statement to Learners

The safety of all children and young people is paramount and all staff will listen to every concern and disclosure with sensitivity and respect and take what is said seriously.

R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School needs to make sure that it does “the right thing” for learners who disclose abuse, so if what is said to any R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School staff member makes them concerned then they will need to discuss your concern or disclosure so that decisions can be made about what to do next. You will be fully informed about any decisions that are made.

Children's Social Care or the Police may then start their investigation and they may want to talk to you or other people involved. In these matters, your safety is paramount, so you can be sure that they will only do what is right and proper.

If any member of staff believe you are in immediate danger they will contact the relevant emergency service (e.g. Police, Ambulance) so help can be sought straight away.

Student Safeguarding Statement to Parents/Carers

The safety of all children and young people is paramount and all staff will listen to every concern and disclosure with sensitivity and respect and take what is said seriously.



R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School needs to make sure that it does 'the right thing' for learners who disclose abuse, so if what is said to any R.E.A.L Alternative Provision School staff member makes them concerned then they will need to discuss the learners concern or disclosure so that decisions can be made about what to do next. The learner will be fully informed about any decisions that are made.

Children's Social Care and the Police may start an investigation and they may want to talk to you or other people involved. In these matters, the safety of all children and young people is paramount, so parents / carers can be sure that they will only do what is right and proper.

If any member of staff thinks that a learner is in immediate danger, emergency help (e.g. Police, Ambulance) will be sought straight away.

Student Safeguarding Statement to Commissioners

The safety of all children and young people is paramount and all staff will listen to every concern and disclosure with sensitivity and respect and take what is said seriously. All learners will be taught to keep themselves safe using a cross curricular approach throughout each academic year.

R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School needs to make sure that it does 'the right thing' for learners who disclose abuse, so if what is said to any R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School staff member makes them concerned then they will need to discuss the learners concern or disclosure so that decisions can be made about what to do next. The learner will be fully informed about any decisions that are made.

Commissioners will be kept fully informed and all concerns will be properly recorded and stored and all information will be shared appropriately.

Children's Social Care and the Police may start an investigation and they may want to talk to commissioners or other people involved. In these matters, the safety of all children and young people is paramount, so commissioners can be sure that they will only do what is right and proper.

If any member of staff thinks that a learner is in immediate danger, emergency help (e.g. Police, Ambulance) will be sought straight away.



Child Protection Procedures

All learners at some point may require additional support to keep them safe in the interest of their own welfare. However all practitioners have a responsibility to refer a child to children's social care under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 if they believe or suspect that the child:

- Has suffered significant harm;
- Is likely to suffer significant harm;
- Has a disability, developmental and welfare needs which are likely only to be met through provision of family support services (with agreement of the child's parent) under the Children Act 1989;
- Is a Child in Need whose development would be likely to be impaired without provision of services.

Child protection procedures are assessed and managed through Children's Social Care, and may also include some elements of early help services.

All child protection procedures incorporate specific steps, with specific criteria and thresholds. These thresholds govern the level of service required by the young person and their families/carers to keep them safe. The table below gives a brief overview of these steps and what they mean.

Early Help Assessments & access to services	Early help assessments are made with children and their families to identify additional support and interventions to meet their needs. Early help services work alongside universal services to target support where it is needed.
Section 17 Assessment & child in need	Following acceptance of a referral by the local authority children's social care, a social worker should lead a multi-agency assessment under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Local



	authorities have a duty to ascertain the child's wishes and feelings and take account of them when planning the provision of their services.
Section 47 Enquiries & child suffering significant harm	Under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, if a child is taken into Police Protection, is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer Significant Harm, a Section 47 enquiry is initiated. The aim is to decide whether any action should be taken to safeguard the child. This enquiry often informs other child protection proceedings.
Section 20 Child in need of accommodation	Section 20 places a duty on a local authority to provide accommodation for children who do not have somewhere suitable to live. It is sometimes called 'voluntary care' or 'voluntary accommodation' because usually parents must agree to the child being accommodated.
Section 31 Care orders	Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 – Care Order. The family court can create a care order under Section 31(1) (a) of the Children Act, placing a child in the care of a designated local authority, with parental responsibility being shared between the parents and the local authority.

In the case of all of the levels of services outlined above, a qualified social worker will make decisions as to which pathway is suitable, through a robust referral and assessment procedure.

Anyone can make a referral directly to Children's Social Care (using the details below), or the police, if they suspect a child is suffering significant harm and not in immediate danger (call 101), or in immediate danger, or an emergency (999).

Alternatively, for further support and advice contact a designated safeguarding lead without delay to discuss your concerns. You may be asked to complete a [safeguarding concern form](#) with further details, this form may be used to make a direct referral to Social Care so be sure to include as much information about the incident/disclosure/concern as you can.



Access to child protection services are local to the area in which the child, or family reside. Contact details are below, click on the link to access further information on how to report a concern about a child.

The links to the local safeguarding board can be used to view further information and details on the specific referral pathways, how to access early help services, and the specific thresholds for services in each area.

Area	Child Protection	Local Safeguarding Board
Nottingham City	Children and Families Direct	http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb
Nottinghamshire	MASH	https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/children-and-families/nottingham-city-safeguarding-children-board/
Leicester City	Childrens Social Care Referrals	http://www.lcitylscb.org/
Leicestershire	First Response	http://lrsb.org.uk/
Derby City	Derby Childrens Social Care	https://www.derbyscb.org.uk/
Derbyshire	Starting Point	https://www.derbyshirescb.org.uk/home.aspx
Rotherham	Report Child Abuse	http://www.rscb.org.uk/
Lincolnshire	Childrens Services Customer Service Centre	https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/



Please Note:

This policy links directly to other relevant policies:

- Whistleblowing
- Countering bullying
- Safer recruitment
- Behaviour management including physical intervention
- E-safety (includes details on the monitoring and reporting of breaches in internet safety)
- Prevent Policy
- Equality Policy

This policy should also be read with the Practice Guidance :

Keeping Children Safe in Education - 2018

Working Together to safeguard Children - 2018

The Prevent Duty - 2015

Female Genital Mutilation National Guidance - 2015

DfE School Attendance - 2015

DfE Children Missing Education - 2015

DfE Children Missing from Home and Care - 2015

DfE Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools - 2014

This policy should be used in conjunction with the following local authority guidance:

Nottinghamshire County Council:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/protecting-and-safeguarding/nscb/informationprofessionals/procedures-practice-guidance/>

Nottingham City Council:

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/article/23729/Safeguarding-Children-Procedures-and-Practice-Guidance-Documents>



Derbyshire County Council:

http://www.derbyshirescb.org.uk/home_docs.html

Derby City Council:

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/safeguarding-children/>

Leicestershire County Council:

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/safeguarding>

Leicester City Council

<http://www.lcitylscb.org/>

Rotherham Metropolitan Council

<http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/safeguarding/>

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the forum of R.E.A.L Designated Safeguarding Leads and ratified by the school governors.

It will be reviewed in line with any lessons learnt through safeguarding audits including termly 'learning walks'. This process informs the quality assurance of this policy.

Revision history:

08/11/17 - Review of policy. Sentence amended relating to the annual review of the policy.

08/05/17 - Additional information added regarding youth produced sexual imagery



16/02/17 - Added information regarding informing Ofsted if a formal referral is made to the relevant LADO as advised at Ofsted inspection of befriending services 12.12.17

30./11/16 - Amendments to FGM and radicalisation sections made after advice from NCSB policy changes

22/09/16 - Full review of policy. Amendments made in line with changes to national guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2016, and updates to the R.E.A.L policies on children absconding from education.

22/09/15: - Full review of policy. Amendments made in line with national guidance and inclusion of information from Keeping Children Safe in Education July 2015.

01/09/2014: - Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check has been replaced by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

01/09/2013: - No amendments to policy. Policy duplicated for R.E.A.L. Independent Schools.

01/09/2012: - Inclusion of allegations management flowchart included in the Safeguarding Policy based on guidance produced and distributed by the Nottingham City Council LADO.

01/09/2011: - Policy written for R.E.A.L. Education Ltd.