



# Prevention of Child Sexual & Criminal Exploitation Policy

Reviewed by Governors Sept 2022

To be reviewed every 2 years unless changes are made before this time.

To be reviewed Sept 2024



**This policy and guidance are aimed to raise awareness and improve the identification and support of children at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation.**

### **Context**

A recent inquiry undertaken by the Office of the Children's Commissioner reported that at least 16,500 children were identified as being at risk of children sexual exploitation during one year.<sup>1</sup> The same research also estimates that the actual numbers of children at risk of and suffering child sexual exploitation are much higher because professionals in the study did not always recognise and respond appropriately to the issue.

Sexual exploitation of children and young people has been difficult to identify, but is increasingly recognisable as practitioners gain more understanding of grooming and other methods of sexual exploitation, and begin to take a proactive and coordinated approach to this type of abuse.

At Joseph Turner Primary we recognise that schools are well placed to prevent, identify and respond to children at risk of sexual exploitation. The guidance within this policy aims to raise the awareness of child sexual exploitation in order to support all of our staff in identifying and responding appropriately to pupils at risk.

### **What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)?**

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

#### **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**

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

Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation, as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to. It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

#### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

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

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CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may happen without the child's immediate knowledge for example through others sharing videos or images of them on social media.

CSE can affect any child who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited for example they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

*Taken from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022*

### **Who is at risk?**

Child 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, exploitative situations but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or fear. Exploitation can happen face to face and it can happen online. It can also occur between young people. In all its forms, child exploitation is child abuse and should be treated as a child protection issue. Children aged 12-15 years of age are most at risk of child exploitation although younger victims have been identified, particularly in relation to online concerns. Equally, those aged 16 and 17 or above can also be at increased risk as they can be more independent and experience less oversight of their lives.

1 "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world" The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups 2012.

There are some signs to look out for if you're worried a child or young person has joined a gang, or is being criminally exploited. It might be hard to spot at first, but the sooner you're able to talk to the young person the more you'll be able to help them.

Signs you may notice:

- Frequently absent from and doing badly in school.
- Going missing from home, staying out late and travelling for unexplained reasons.
- In a relationship or hanging out with someone older than them.
- Being angry, aggressive or violent.
- Being isolated or withdrawn.
- Having unexplained money and buying new things.
- Wearing clothes or accessories in gang colours or getting tattoos.
- Using new slang words.
- Spending more time on social media and being secretive about time online.
- Making more calls or sending more texts, possibly on a new phone or phones.
- Self-harming and feeling emotionally unwell.
- Taking drugs and abusing alcohol.
- Committing petty crimes like shop lifting or vandalism.
- Unexplained injuries and refusing to seek medical help.
- Carrying weapons or having a dangerous breed of dog.

*Taken from the NSPCC website - Criminal exploitation and gangs September 2022*

Sexual exploitation can be difficult to spot and sometimes mistaken for "normal" teenage behaviour. Knowing the signs can help protect children and help them when they've no one else to turn to.

Signs you may notice:

- Unhealthy or inappropriate sexual behaviour.
- Being frightened of some people, places or situations.
- Being secretive.
- Sharp changes in mood or character.
- Having money or things they can't or won't explain.

- Physical signs of abuse, like bruises or bleeding in their genital or anal area.
- Alcohol or drug misuse.
- Sexually transmitted infections.
- Pregnancy.

*Taken from the NSPCC website - Sexual exploitation September 2022*

Whilst both CSE and CCE are similar in the sense that they both occur due to an imbalance of power, they are not the same. CCE is about people being coerced into committing crimes and CSE is a form sexual abuse.

## **Consent**

In assessing whether a child or young person is a victim of sexual exploitation, or at risk of becoming a victim, careful consideration must be given to the issue of consent. It is important to bear in mind that:

- a child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other type of sexual touching;
- sexual activity with a child under 16 is also an offence;
- it is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17-year-old if they hold a position of trust or authority in relation to them;
- where sexual activity with a 16 or 17-year-old does not result in an offence being committed, it may still result in harm, or the likelihood of harm being suffered;
- non-consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim; and
- if the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim or his or her family has been subject to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have given true consent and therefore offences may have been committed.

***Child sexual exploitation is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 years and not just those in a specific age group.***

The effects of sexual exploitation are harmful and far reaching for children and young people and the ultimate aim is to prevent them from being exploited in the first place. By prevention we mean reducing the risk that children and young people will become victims of sexual exploitation by:

- reducing their vulnerability
- improving their resilience
- disrupting and preventing the activities of perpetrators
- reducing tolerance of exploitative behaviour

## **Tackling Child Exploitation**

### **1. Warning signs**

During annual iHASCO safeguarding training, exploitation is explored. This is revisited during Staff training days in September and staff are requested to consider the 'Signs you may notice' and put forward any names of children they feel could be at risk to the lead member of staff for safeguarding.

### **2. Training and Awareness**

Through this policy and guidance all staff and volunteers who work with children and young people will be made aware of Child Exploitation and the indicators of concern in order to identify and respond to concerns at an early stage. We also have a programme of Professional Development Meetings and training days included in which is training to raise staff awareness of the identification, response to and prevention of CSE. We have a Pastoral Team who work closely with staff to plan and deliver (or arrange for outside agencies to deliver) safeguarding awareness workshops for pupils which will include an element of keep safe work exploring exploitation.

### **3. Promotion of healthy relationships through the curriculum**

All staff working in school play an important role in helping children and young people gain an understanding of acceptable and unacceptable relationships and sexual behaviour and to gain a sense of self-worth and

respect for others. The PSHE curriculum and Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) curriculum provides a vehicle for this important learning which can help prevent children and young people becoming involved in sexual exploitation.

By enabling children and young people to explore what makes a safe and healthy relationship, we can help to develop the awareness and skills to recognise and manage potential risks of harm, stay safe and seek help if they need it. It is important that this message is repeated throughout a child's time at school to support prevention through the promotion of safe practices. We play a vital role in this preventive education and raising awareness.

Children from Reception to Year 6 receive an annual lesson from the School Nurse Team highlighting the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's (NSPCC) Underwear Rule in our PSHE lessons. The aim is to teach pupils the following important safety skills without giving explicit information or telling scary stories. The NSPCC's Underwear Rule is taught using the 'PANTS' acronym, which is like a green cross code for staying safe from sexual abuse.

PANTS stands for:

- **P**rivates are private
- **A**lways remember your body belongs to you
- **N**o means no
- **T**alk about secrets that upset you
- **S**peak up, someone can help

This is delivered by the School Nurse Ambassadors, in conjunction with the Deputy Headteacher and School Nurse Team.

### **EYFS**

Children are taught to understand their bodies belong to them and what modes of dress are appropriate or inappropriate in certain situations. A strong emphasis is placed on building strong Personal, Social and Emotional Development foundations through the curriculum learning units and family group activities which cover feelings, relationships, e-safety, being healthy, self-care, people who help us, people I can talk to, anti-bullying, self-worth, pride in themselves and their bodies and how to say 'No'. Children begin to develop an awareness of e-safety. They learn about the religions and cultures of children in their class and within Early Years, learning about understanding and tolerance.

### **Key Stage 1**

Many of the themes from Early Years continue to be developed. Children are taught PSHE and learn about positive relationships, friendships, how to solve conflicts and how to behave appropriately towards one another. They learn about the emotional and physical changes of growing up and dealing with strong emotions. How to look after our bodies and how to be safe and healthy are also emphasised at this age. There is an understanding of different religions and cultures within the school community. The school endeavours to create a supportive, caring environment built on mutual respect, where pupils are happy to talk about their feelings. Pupils are encouraged to respect each other as well as the adults in the school. Children are also taught about e-safety, the uses of the CEOP button and the work of other outside agencies. Children are taught lessons in conjunction with the school's

### **Key Stage 2**

Work in Key Stage 2 builds upon the foundations taught in EYFS and KS1. Children are taught about personal boundaries and the changes in their bodies as they enter puberty. The school works closely with outside agencies, such as the Police, DECCA and the school nurse team who deliver lessons which cover changes to the body. Pupils in KS2 learn more details about conception, how babies develop and are born and why families are important for having babies. They learn about respecting their own bodies, the importance of sexual activity as part of a long-term, loving relationship and the importance of family life. They continue to develop respect for the views of other people and explore moral questions. Pupils also learn about who they can talk to if they want help or advice and information about growing up and personal safety including online. Children are educated on where they can get support and advice in school or from outside agencies,

for example, we have a Pastoral Team which consists of many members including a full time School Counsellor. In addition, children are taught about agencies such as Childline.

#### **4. Identification**

Advice from the DfE states that frontline practitioners need to be aware of the key risks and indicators of children being exploited. Staff have access to all of our policies on the school drive, school website and hard copies that are in the PPA room. **If a member of staff identifies a child who they consider to be suffering from or at high risk of exploitation, it is important that they raise their concerns immediately with the Designated Person for Child Protection in school so that appropriate action can be taken. If any member of staff has information from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, this must be reported in the same way to the Designated Person for Child Protection.**

#### **5. Attendance**

Attendance at Joseph Turner Primary is monitored carefully by our Attendance and Welfare Officer in conjunction with the Local Authority. The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that the office team and the Attendance and Welfare Officer are fully briefed on CSE/CCE and monitor/log unexplained absences and those pupils leaving during the school day with the potential for CSE/CCE in mind. As such, when monitoring and reporting on attendance, the Attendance and Welfare Officer is vigilant to the link between children going missing and the risk of CSE/CCE.

At Joseph Turner Primary we ensure there is a staff presence at entrances at the start of the school day which includes members of the Senior Leadership Team and at least two members of support staff greeting pupils and parents at the school entrances for each year group. At the end of the school day, teachers dismiss pupils and refer to authorised collection forms. These staff should be mindful of who is dropping-off and collecting pupils; gather details, including vehicle details, if there are any concerns.

#### **6. Referral**

If you have any concerns regarding CSE or CCE (even if this information has been supplied to you by someone else) you must raise them immediately with the designated person for child protection: Miss C Burris or any other available DSP. You will be asked to log the concern on CPOMS if you are an employee of the school or a cause for concern form if you are a short-term supply staff member or professional visitor.

**What will happen once I have raised a concern?**

**The concern will be investigated by the designated person for child protection who will liaise with the appropriate authorities.**

**Concerns regarding Child Exploitation will be raised with Sandwell Children's Trust through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0121 569 3100 and/or the CSE Team, Detective Constable Chrissie Fitzgerald on 07717 680 489.**

**In all referrals and consultations with other agencies, it is important that you are clear that you believe the child is at risk of or is a victim of sexual or criminal exploitation.**

**If a child is at imminent significant risk of harm/immediate danger you should consider calling 999 in the first instance (for Police or Ambulance), followed by The Children's Trust by telephoning 0121 569 3100. A MARF (multi agency referral form) will be completed and submitted on the same day.**

#### **7. Useful Contact Numbers and websites:**

**Emergency Police 999**

**Non-Emergency Police 101**

**PC Hughie Treasure 07393 763 145 (for advice)**

**CSE Team 0121 569 2524, Detective Constable Chrissie Fitzgerald 07717 680 489**

**Sandwell MASH 0121 569 3100**

**Women's Aid and Refuge** run the Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline – **0808 2000 247**

They provide guidance and support to those experiencing domestic abuse. Further information about the services they offer can be found at [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

**Missing People** is a national charity that provides advice and support to missing people and their families. Further information about their services can be found at [www.missingpeople.org.uk](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk) and they can be contacted on **116 000**.

**The Samaritans** is a registered charity that support people going through various issues. They could be going through something new or have been struggling to cope for some time. Further information can be found at [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) – and they can be contacted on **116 123**.

**The National Stalking Helpline** provides guidance and information to anyone who is currently or has previously been affected by harassment or stalking. Further information about the services they offer can be found at [www.stalkinghelpline.org](http://www.stalkinghelpline.org) and they can be contacted on **0808 802 0300**.

**FRANK** provide confidential drugs advice – further information can be found at [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com) or they can be contacted on **0300 123 6600**.

**CEOP** (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify online and offline threats to children and young people. More information about their work can be found at [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

**BLAST!** Project for boys and young men [www.mesmac.co.uk](http://www.mesmac.co.uk)

This website provides support and guidance for boys and young men experiencing sexual exploitation. Their website contains information and resources for young people and professionals around CSE.