



Anti-Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

Barnes Farm Junior School

The Government deplores the sexual exploitation of children, and will not tolerate failure at any level to prevent harm, support victims and bring offenders to justice.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 (p77)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact: it can also occur through the use of technology. Like all forms of child sex abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- *can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;*
- *can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;*
- *can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;*
- *can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;*
- *can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;*
- *may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media);*
- *can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and*
- *is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.*

Some of the following signs may be indicators of child sexual exploitation:

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

In keeping with statutory guidance, no child under 13 years can be assessed as low risk if behaviours indicate involvement in CSE.

SCHOOL POLICY

Barnes Farm Junior School will promote the right children have to feel safe, development of healthy friendships and relationships, and an awareness of how children can get help swiftly when interactions begin to feel unsafe. This will be achieved through a range of means, including and not limited to our whole school ethos, safeguarding policies (including behaviour and e-Safety), and the school's anti-bullying agenda. Barnes Farm Junior School will communicate with the whole-school community, ensuring all staff, volunteers and visitors are aware of how pupils are encouraged to keep themselves feeling safe. School will work in partnership with parents, carers and families to support with online safety at home and children feeling safe in the community, and while socialising with peers.

Pupils will be offered curriculum based activities and lessons to support them in awareness of what safe social interactions feel like and how they need to be tuned into their feelings so they can gauge when they may be in a risky situation. Lessons will focus on promoting healthy interactions, positive relationships and independent self-care skills for children, and will enable teachers to alert children to the dangers of grooming and CSE in a way that respects their right to feel safe and that is appropriate for their age/stage of development. Topics explored will include, and not be limited to, touch which feels safe/unsafe, feeling safe, stranger awareness, recognising and assessing risk, and knowing how and where to get help. Teachers will encourage children to use correct anatomical language for naming body parts. A list of potentially useful resources can be accessed at on the school website.

E-Safety will be taught throughout the school and children will have strategies for how to respond when they feel unsafe online. The school will engage with outside support which may include visits from representatives from relevant charities (NSPCC, Barnardo's), and the Local Authority e-Safety officer for schools.

Senior management and governors in the school are fully committed to dealing with the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation, and will co-operate extensively and effectively with outside agencies including the police, health and social care to enable potential situations of Child Sexual Exploitation to be identified rapidly and ensure a swift response follows. The response will be in line with Essex's Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) procedures, and clearly defined interventions can be put in place without delay. Interventions will include a robust multi-agency approach, based on an infrastructure of support around the child and family. Support will be offered to the child's school peers and their families, where appropriate.

Essex's Safeguarding Children Board has an online toolkit which can support professionals and practitioners who feel concerned about a child. All partners, including schools, are expected to be familiar with the toolkit and to use it whenever a child is considered at risk of CSE. Concerns with evidence which indicate possible CSE in children under 13 years old, must result in an immediate referral to the Safeguarding Lead.

GOVERNING BODY

The Governors will monitor to ensure that preventative work is embedded in curriculum and in the school's ethos, and is done in an appropriate and supportive way. The governing body will expect the following from all school staff:

- Appoint a lead governor for CSE. This can be the same person as the school's governor for Child Protection or Children in Local Authority Care. Our Governor is Mrs Carol Mason.
- Ensure the Head has identified a named Designated Person on staff as Lead for CSE. This can be the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- To attend training and ensure up to date training is provided for all staff, which includes understanding the risks and indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation and what to do if they think a child is at risk of CSE.
- Must read and understand the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy in conjunction with this policy on Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Play an active role in supporting the school in its commitment to promoting the safety and welfare of all pupils.
- Demonstrate through their actions their awareness of risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and their ability to identify potential indicators that a child may be at risk of grooming or experiencing early effects of the grooming process.
- Model behaviour which promotes children's right to feel safe and helps them to behave towards each other in ways that respect each other's right to feel safe.
- To listen to all children, record the Child's Voice accurately and gain consent before sharing the Child's View, where possible.
- Timescales are adhered to and any issues concerning Child Sexual Exploitation are passed onto the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately, within the hour. If the Lead is off-site, they must be contacted by telephone.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Name	Role	Initial DSL training date	Refresher DSL date	CSE Training date
Ross McTaggart	DSL	2012 2014 08/02/2016	16/07/2018	CSE Champion Training 27/09/2017
Richard McIntosh	Deputy DSL	09/12/2014	12/01/2017	

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/s will ensure that all staff are aware of the risk factors, signs and indicators, useful resources and details of local services, and have received training to increase their knowledge and develop confidence. Posters will be displayed and leaflets, raising awareness of local services and resources, will be readily available giving advice and information on child sexual exploitation. The school will work in partnership with other multi-agency partners to protect the children and young people within the setting.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/s are responsible for ensuring that the Voice of the Child is enabled where risk of Child Sexual Exploitation is identified, and that this is done in a safe and sensitive way documenting in the child's own words what is happening for them. The child can choose who supports the documenting of the Child's Voice, though the Designated Safeguarding Lead needs to make sure this happens and oversee the work/documentation, and check the child feels satisfied that the written transcript is accurate.

Designated Safeguarding Leads need to be aware that some of the lessons learned which have emerged from CSE around the country include a lack of information sharing. As with any safeguarding issue, the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads will be mindful of information sharing protocols and also their duty to safeguard children and young people when working with possible cases of CSE.

PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW: WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD IS IDENTIFIED AS AT-RISK OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

1. The School's Designated Safeguarding Lead will complete the online toolkit which is referred to in the section above.
2. The DSL will also contact the Family Operations Hub.
3. If a child discloses and there is evidence to suggest that a crime has been, or may have been committed against the child, contact the police and report the crime, noting the incident number.
4. Send in a referral to Family Operations Hub, following the procedures in the Thresholds and Pathways document. Attach the completed CSE assessment as supporting evidence to the referral form itself and submit them electronically.

Upon a concern about CSE being raised in relation to a child or young person by a staff member in school or a member of the public, DSLs will need to complete the following actions as soon as possible and within 2 hours :

- speak with the child/young person if appropriate
- complete the online CSE assessment
- contact the Family Operations Hub and, if needed, police
- submit a referral into Family Operations Hub with the completed assessment attached

If a child or young person goes missing at any point during this process, the Police must be contacted immediately.

SCHOOL STAFF

Staff at Barnes Farm Junior School will access training as determined by the Senior Leaders of the school. Staff will uphold their duty of care, ensuring they are vigilant at all times, and mindful of the early indicators that a child might be involved with socialising with people who are older, or even the same age, and might be at risk of being Sexually Exploited. Teaching staff will endeavour to create a safe learning environment, where pupils feel safe and confident to fully participate in lessons and discussions. A safe environment will be created by:

- Agree ground rules with young people, including confidentiality. Confidentiality should be maintained in line with the school policy and the safeguarding policy.
- Model behaviour and being aware of values and attitudes, preconceptions and feelings. Staff will be prepared to challenge any inappropriate language and attitudes including stereotyping and will recognise diversity and gender within the teaching group. .
- Building trusting relationships which will set the tone for lessons and helps to reinforce positive relationships.
- Ensuring each child in their class can identify at least 3 and preferably 4 adults in school that they could approach to talk with and perhaps ask for help if they felt unsafe. Children may or may not name the adults in their class, though it is important there are adults within school they identify for themselves who they can go to.

E-SAFETY

All children and young people are at risk of online sexual exploitation. We will ensure that our e-safety procedures are robust and that pupils are taught online safety skills so they know:

- online risks
- how to recognise unsafe online contact
- to be confident to report any concerns about themselves or others to staff in school staff.

See also e safety policy

This Policy is agreed by governors:

Date: 13th March 2019

To be reviewed: March 2021