

Woodthorpe Primary School

Executive Headteacher: James McGann
Head of School: Charlotte Grason-Taylor
Chair of Governors: Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones

Our school is a happy, exciting and caring community in which each child thrives.

Safeguarding update - April 2024

Safeguarding at regional level - what is happening?

Operation Endeavour

Operation Endeavour is a joint operation between City of York Children's Services and North Yorkshire Police to safeguard children and young people at risk of harm from going missing.

Operation Endeavour aims to support children and young people who go missing from home. Children who go missing from home are at risk of significant harm and they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

As a result, following any report of a child going missing to the Police, the Police will contact Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff of that child's school. The sharing of this valuable information allows school staff to be well informed and provide the right support to young people at the right time. For more information, please see the '10 things you should know' attachment.

Safeguarding at a local level - what is happening in our local area?

Anti-social Behaviour

Although much lower than the national average, anti-social behaviour is the number 1 issue within our local area and, while anti-social behaviour is obviously a very complex issue, one contributory factor is a lack of ownership of the community in which the young people live.

Prevention is certainly better than cure when it comes to anti-social behaviour and so creating a strong sense of community where people are encouraged to take responsibility for the environment and each other is crucial. Within school we do talk about the people within our community and our behaviour curriculum ensures that children have the moral compass to become positive members of their local area.

Within school we have asked our local PCSOs to come and talk to our year 6 children about anti-social behaviours outside of school.

If any adult hears of concerns within the community that might involve pupils from our school please let the safeguarding team know.

Safeguarding at school level - what is happening in school - online abuse?

A number of online incidents have taken place over recent months, particularly within year 6. Below is some helpful guidance from NSPCC.

What is online abuse?

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web, like computers, tablets and mobile phones. And it can happen anywhere online, including:

- social media
- text messages and messaging apps
- emails
- online chats
- online gaming
- live-streaming sites.

Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know or from strangers. It might be part of other abuse which is taking place offline, like bullying or grooming. Or the abuse might only happen online.

Signs of online abuse

A child or young person experiencing abuse online might:

- spend a lot more or a lot less time than usual online, texting, gaming or using social media
- seem distant, upset or angry after using the internet or texting
- be secretive about who they're talking to and what they're doing online or on their mobile phone
- have lots of new phone numbers, texts or email addresses on their mobile phone, laptop or tablet.

Some of the signs of online abuse are similar to other abuse types:

- [cyberbullying](#)
- [grooming](#)
- [sexual abuse](#)
- [child sexual exploitation](#).

If a child reveals online abuse

It can be difficult to know what to say and do if a child tells you they're being abused online. They might not realise what's happening is wrong. And they might even blame themselves. If a child talks to you about online abuse it's important to:

- listen carefully to what they're saying
- let them know they've done the right thing by telling you
- tell them it's not their fault
- say you'll take them seriously
- don't confront the alleged abuser
- explain what you'll do next
- report what the child has told you as soon as possible

If you are aware of any online issues involving children within school, please let the safeguarding team know.

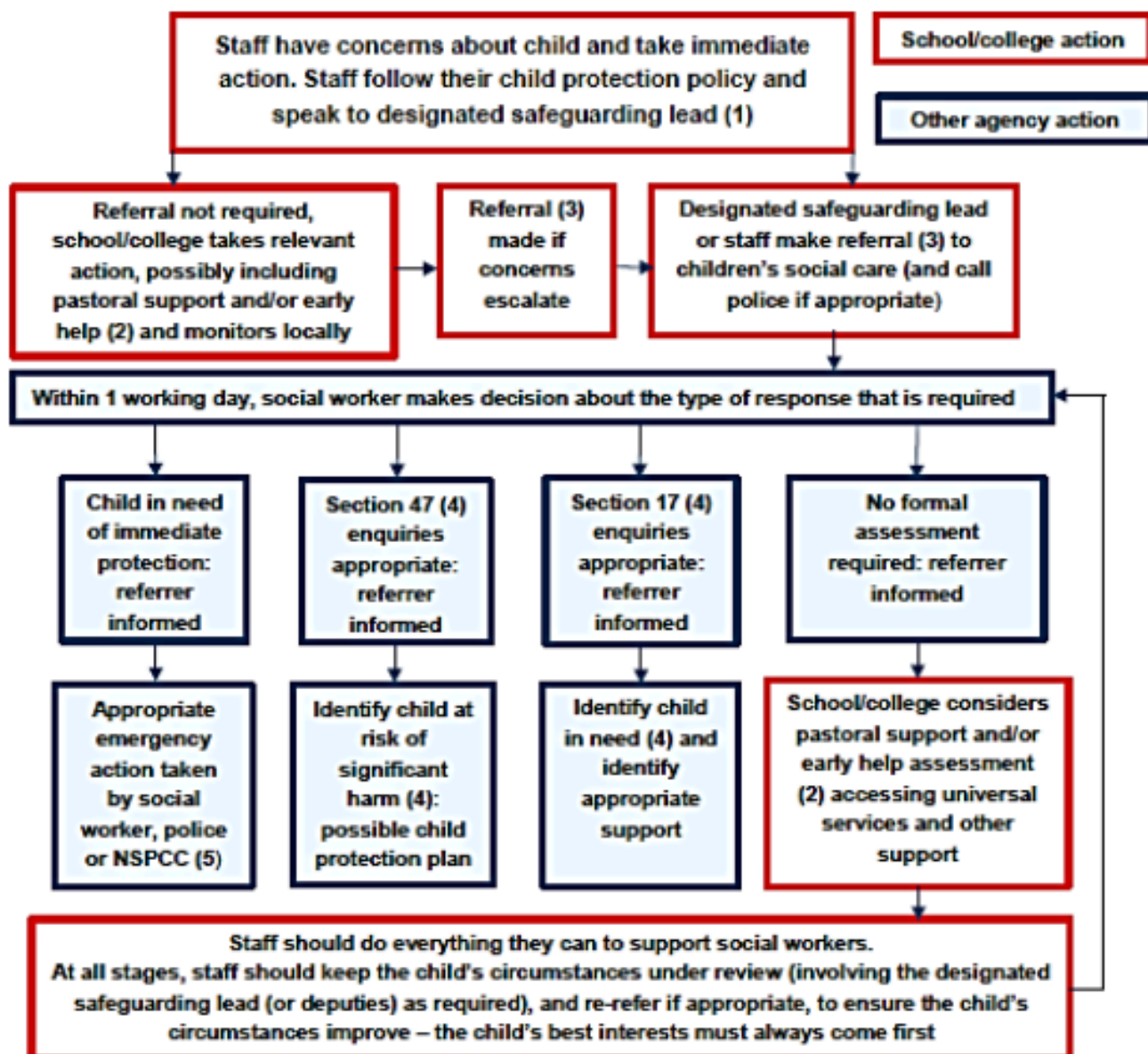
School policy & procedures: reporting concerns

Safeguarding is our number one priority. We all work under the assumption that 'it could happen here' and ensure that action will be taken to protect a child where that child is suffering harm or is likely to suffer harm. Staff are in a unique position that can allow them to identify safeguarding concerns at an early stage. We have a role beyond that of educating pupils or supporting the smooth running of the school, which extends to the care and basic human rights of each young person.

A copy of our child protection policy can be found here: [SBMAT Safeguarding](#)

This quick view flow chart (included within the policy) also provides clear action in relation to where there are concerns about a child:

Actions where there are concerns about a child



If you would like to discuss the content of this document in any more detail, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team:

- **James McGann** Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Leader
- **Charlotte Grason-Taylor** Designated Safeguarding and Child Protection Deputy
- **Lucy Scrowston** Safeguarding and Child Protection Deputy
- **Mark Hassak (CEO)** Report any concerns regarding the Headteacher directly to him under the Whistleblowing Policy
- **Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones** Chair of Governors
- **Jenny Parker** Safeguarding Governor