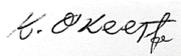


RICHMOND HILL PRIMARY ACADEMY



Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation Policy

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APPROVED:	DATE: November 2020
SIGNED: 	ROLE: Assistant Principal
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Version	1

APPROVED BY DIRECTORS

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Introduction

This policy has been written in line with the Academy's Safeguarding Policy, as well as the Sexual, Relationship Education Policy and Working Together to Safeguard Children with the revised definition, 2017. Explicit links are made to preventing Female Genital Mutilation which is explicitly explored in the Academy's Safeguarding Policy which runs alongside our Preventing Radicalisation Policy and E-safety Policy.

This policy has been developed in response to growing concerns about the scale of sexual exploitation and the recognition that any child might be targeted for grooming and exploitation.

Policy Aims:

The aims of this policy are to:

- Demonstrate our commitment as an Academy to keeping our children safe and promoting the welfare of our pupils
- Raise awareness of sexual exploitation and grooming
- Help staff to identify warning signs and vulnerable children
- Explain the Academy's procedures to be followed if staff suspect child sexual exploitation/grooming
- Stress the importance of multi-agency cooperation.

Statutory Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

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 exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Vulnerabilities

All children and young people, including those from supportive families can be vulnerable to sexual exploitation. However, some children and young people are known to be at greater risk. For example, those that:

- Have a chaotic home/family life
- Have a history of abuse (including familial child sexual abuse, risk of forced marriage, risk of honour based violence, physical and emotional abuse and neglect)
- Have experienced loss/bereavement

- Are associated with gangs through relatives/peers, or are living in a gang neighbourhood
- Have friendships with children/young people who are being sexually exploited
- Have learning difficulties
- Live in residential care, or hostel/bed and breakfast accommodation
- Have low self-esteem/confidence
- Are young carers

Warning Signs

Children and young people who are being sexually exploited may be:

- Going missing from home or care
- Absent from school
- Increasing their use of social media, dating sites, image sharing apps etc
- Involved in risky online relationships including new contacts with people out of city
- Sharing inappropriate/indecent online images with peers, or with people only met online
- Becoming isolated/estranged from family and friends
- Meeting people befriended online
- Involved in offending behaviour
- Misusing drugs/alcohol
- Experiencing sexual cyber-bullying
- Changing their physical appearance
- Experiencing repeated sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations
- In poor mental health and/or self-harming, having thoughts of, or attempting suicide
- Receiving money and gifts from unknown sources

Risk Assessment and Consent

In assessing whether a child or young person is a victim of sexual exploitation, or at risk of becoming a victim, careful consideration should 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
- 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 the 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 old and not just those in a specific age group

What To Do If You Suspect Child Sexual Exploitation

Staff should follow the Academy's normal safeguarding procedures, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) and Working Together to Keep Children Safe.

- Any safeguarding concerns are to be reported immediately to the Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead who will refer to the Referrals and Response team. CE (CSE/CCE) – All staff are aware via whole school training on the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation and seek advice without delay.

[CE - Child Exploitation \(CCE and CSE\)](#)

The Doncaster Definition of Child Criminal Exploitation is:

- *Child Criminal Exploitation relates to any activity where a child, or vulnerable young adult up to the age of 21 (if they are also Care Leavers or accessing a service from the Children with Disabilities team), is coerced, groomed, incentivised or threatened to become involved in criminal activity where they are too fearful to refuse the activities requested of them.*
- *Child Criminal Exploitation may also apply to socially- isolated young people who feel a kinship to other young people, adults or groups who offer inclusion into a group in exchange for engaging in criminal activities, which they otherwise would not have done.*
- *Child Criminal Exploitation should also be considered in the cases of children whose parents are organised crime nominals and who are therefore exposed to criminal activity, whether they are engaged in it themselves, or observe it, as a consequence of residing in that household and the child's emotional, mental or physical health is impacted upon as a result.*

It is important to have a clear definition of what constitutes CE if we are accurately to gauge the scale of the issue locally. The following is an extract from the Doncaster Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy where it seeks to define CCE:

- *Child Exploitation relates to any activity where a child, or vulnerable young adult up to the age of 21 (if they are also Care Leavers or accessing a service from the Children with Disabilities team), is coerced, groomed, incentivised or threatened to become involved in criminal activity where they are too fearful to refuse the activities requested of them.*

Indicators of involvement in child criminal exploitation:

- *Child withdrawn from family;*
- *Sudden loss of interest in school. Decline in attendance or academic achievement (although it should be noted that some gang members will maintain a good attendance record to avoid coming to notice);*
- *Being emotionally 'switched off', but also containing frustration / rage;*
- *Starting to use new or unknown slang words;*
- *Holding unexplained money or possessions;*
- *Staying out unusually late without reason, or breaking parental rules consistently;*
- *Sudden change in appearance – dressing in a particular style or 'uniform' similar to that of other young people they hang around with, including a particular colour;*
- *Dropping out of positive activities;*
- *New nickname*
- *Unexplained physical injuries, and/or refusal to seek / receive medical treatment for injuries;*
- *Graffiti style 'tags' on possessions, school books, walls;*
- *Constantly talking about another young person who seems to have a lot of influence over them;*
- *Breaking off with old friends and hanging around with one group of people;*
- *Associating with known or suspected gang members, closeness to siblings or adults in the family who are gang members;*
- *Starting to adopt certain codes of group behaviour e.g. ways of talking and hand signs;*
- *Going missing;*
- *Returning home looking dishevelled;*
- *Being found by Police in towns or cities many miles from home;*
- *Expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of young people, some of whom may have been friends in the past;*
- *Being scared when entering certain areas;*
- *Concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods.*
- *An important feature of gang involvement and child exploitation is that, the more heavily a child is involved, the less likely they are to talk about it.*
- *If there is any concern that a child/ young person is being criminally exploited there is a duty to safeguard their well- being. Early intervention is key to prevent escalation. A referral to children's services is necessary or if the child/ young person is thought to be at immediate danger then DCST MAAP/One Front Door and or the Police need to be informed without delay. Prompt response may prevent them or others being harmed.*
- *Anyone with concerns about gang involvement can contact the Targeted Youth Support Service (TYS) and they will arrange to visit the child or young person and carry out an assessment at that point. The Team EPIC worker will keep the school informed of the outcome of the assessment, and any interventions that are put in place as a result. You will be part of any multi-agency meeting that arises as a result of their involvement with Team EPIC or other provision available from YYS.*
- *In Doncaster a low level intelligence form (not a referral form) is in place. The DSL should complete this form and pass to the police should low level concerns emerge that may indicate*



Partner intel sharing document.docx

CE.

The previous CSE team will now take on the name of CE to tackle both CSE and CE. Local procedures are still developing – all procedures, including referral pathways and services can be accessed via the DSCP procedures

http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_gang_activity.html?zoom_highlight=CE

http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_child_sexual_exploit.html?zoom_highlight=CSE

Low-level intelligence forms below can be used to alert services to suspected involvement in CSE (following guidance).

The DSL will also consider CE/CSE and share information on any child, young person or family at risk to ensure correct procedures are followed.



Child Criminal
Exploitation Board F

- *Where child sexual exploitation or child criminal exploitation, or the risk of it, is suspected, frontline practitioners should complete a cause for concern form and pass onto the designated member of staff for child protection or contact the Child Exploitation Team. Education contacts are Carmel Bartlett/Jayne Pezzulo.(see referral forms page 12)*
- *The DSL should complete the CE checklist tool (see below) for partners and refer to the table at the end of the tool to help decide how to proceed; a copy of the completed tool must be kept in the child's child protection records for future reference.*
- *If the child/young person already has an allocated social worker, the DSL must contact them (or their team manager) to discuss any concerns about child exploitation.*
- *A copy of the CE checklist tool for partners can be obtained from:*

<http://www.DSCP.co.uk/sexual-exploitation>

http://doncasterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_gang_activity.html?zoom_highlight=CCE

Professionals can telephone team members for advice

01302 862012 - Jayne Pezzulo

01302 736929 - Carmel Bartlett

All parents and carers of families can contact the general MAAP contact number on 01302 737777.