

Named Staff and contacts:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Rachel Roberts – Headteacher
- Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Sara Holden – Deputy Headteacher
- Designated Teacher for Children in care: Rachel Roberts – Headteacher
- Nominated Safeguarding Governor: Yvette Goward

Head of Service and Performance service.

Kelda Claire: 01163059084 / 07507686100

Allegations:

Kim Taylor / Lovona Brown: 01163057597

Safeguarding development officers:

Simon Genders: 01163057750

Ann Prideaux: 01163057317

First Response Children's duty (Tier 4 same day referrals)

Telephone: 01163050005

Email: childrensduty@leics.gov.uk

Address:

First Response Children's Duty

Room 100b

County Hall

Championship Way

Glenfield

LE3 8RF

All other referrals [including Early Help, children and family Wellbeing Services](http://lrsb.org.uk/childreport)

<http://lrsb.org.uk/childreport>

Early Help queries and Consultation Line: 0116 3058727

Safeguarding policy

Croft Church of England Primary School



Signed by Headteacher:

Signed by Chair of Governors:

September 2020

Review date: September 2021

[Introduction](#)

Croft Church of England Primary School fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils in school. The aim of the policy is to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety and health by fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate. The pupils' welfare is of paramount importance.

1.2 This policy is consistent with:

- the legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as described in section 175 of the Education Act 2002 [or section 157 of the Education Act 2002 for independent schools and academies] and the Statutory guidance "*Keeping children safe in education – Statutory guidance for schools and colleges*", September 2020 and "*Working Together to Safeguard Children*", 2018.
- the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Safeguarding Partnership – Multi-Agency safeguarding Arrangements.

1.3 There are four main elements to our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy:

- **Prevention** (e.g. positive school atmosphere, teaching and pastoral support to pupils, safer recruitment procedures);
- **Protection** (by following agreed procedures, ensuring staff are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to Child Protection concerns);
- **Support** (to pupils and school staff and to children who may have been abused);
- **Working with parents** (to ensure appropriate communications and actions are undertaken).

1.4 This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, governors and visitors to the school. We recognise that child protection is the responsibility of all adults in school. We will ensure that all parents and other working partners are aware of our child protection policy by mentioning it in our school prospectus, displaying appropriate information in our reception and on the school website and by raising awareness at meetings with parents as appropriate.

1.5 **Extended school activities**

Where the Governing Body provides services or activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection will apply. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, the Governing Body will seek assurance in writing that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place to safeguard and protect children and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

2Safeguarding Commitment

21. For the purposes of this policy, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

2.2The school adopts an open and accepting attitude towards children as part of its responsibility for pastoral care. Staff encourage children and parents to feel free to talk about any concerns and to see school as a safe place when there are difficulties. Children's worries and fears will be taken seriously and children are encouraged to seek help from members of staff.

2.3Our school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- Ensure that children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty;
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE/Citizenship/ Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse (including online and other contexts children are in), and to know to whom they can turn for help;
- Ensure every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies;
- Operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out and recorded on our single central record for new staff and volunteers who will work with children, including identity, right to work, enhanced DBS criminal record and barred list (and overseas where needed), references, and prohibition from teaching or managing in schools (s.128) etc.

2.4Safeguarding in the Curriculum

Children are taught about safeguarding in school. The following areas are among those addressed in PSHE and Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education and in the wider curriculum:

Bullying including Cyberbullying

Drugs, alcohol and substance misuse (including awareness of County Lines and Criminal Exploitation of Children where appropriate)

Online safety

The danger of meeting up with strangers

Fire and water safety

Road safety

Domestic Abuse

Healthy Relationships / Consent

So-called Honour Based Abuse issues e.g. forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (see Appendix 6),

Sexual exploitation of children (CSE), including online

Child criminal exploitation (including cybercrime)

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation (see Appendices 4 and 5)

3 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 General

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes a responsibility to be alert to possible abuse and to record and report concerns to staff identified with child protection responsibilities within the school.

The names of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for the current year are listed at the start of this document.

3.2 Governing Body

In accordance with the Statutory Guidance “Keeping children safe in education” September 2020, the Governing Body will ensure

- The school has its own child protection / safeguarding policy, procedures and training in place which are effective and comply with the law at all times. The policy is made available publicly.
- The school operates safer recruitment practices, including appropriate use of references and checks on new staff and volunteers. Furthermore, the Headteacher, a nominated Governor and other staff involved in the recruitment process have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training.
- There are procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns and allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers (see Appendix 2).
- There is a senior member of the school’s leadership team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection (the “Designated Safeguarding Lead”) and there is always cover for this role with appropriate arrangements for before/after school and out of term time activities.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes effective Local Authority training (in addition to basic child protection training) and this is refreshed every two years. In addition to this formal training, their knowledge and skills are updated at regular intervals (at least annually) via safeguarding briefings etc.
- The Headteacher, and all other staff and volunteers who work with children (including early years practitioners within any settings on the school site), undertake appropriate training which is regularly updated (at least annually and more comprehensively every three years in compliance with the Safeguarding Children Partnership protocol); and new staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities (including this policy - Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education, the pupil Behaviour Policy and how to respond if children go missing).
- The Local Authority Induction leaflet, "Safeguarding in Education Induction – Child Protection Information, Safer Working Practice" will be used as part of this induction and Annex A from "Keeping children safe in education" September 2020 is provided to all staff working directly with children.
- Any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to the attention of the Governing Body will be rectified without delay.
- Chair of Governors (or, in the absence of a Chair, the Vice Chair) deals with any safeguarding concerns allegations of abuse made against the Headteacher, in liaison with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- Effective policies and procedures are in place and updated annually including a behaviour "code of conduct" for staff and volunteers - "Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those who work with children in education settings May 2019 (supplemented by the COVID19 Addendum April 2020)". Information is provided to the Local Authority (on behalf of the Safeguarding Children Partnership) through the Safeguarding Annual Return.
- There is an individual member of the Governing Body who will champion issues to do with safeguarding children and child protection within the school, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and provide information and compliance / monitoring reports to the Governing Body.
- The school contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2018– including providing a co-ordinated offer of Early Help for children who require this. This Early Help may be offered directly through school provision or via referral to an external support agency. Safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority and the Leicestershire and Rutland safeguarding Children Partnership.

3.3 Headteacher

The Headteacher of the school will ensure that:

- Acting as a point of contact and the provision of information to the Safeguarding Children Partnership on safeguarding and child protection.
- Liaising with the headteacher or principal about issues especially to do with ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children;
- Allegations of abuse or concerns that a member of staff or adult working at school, may pose a risk of harm to children or young people are notified to the Local Authority Designated Officer.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner. The NSPCC whistle blowing helpline number is also available (0800 028 0285).
- All staff are made aware that they have an individual responsibility to pass on safeguarding concerns and that if all else fails to report these directly to Children's Social Care (Children and family specialist Services) or the Police.
- Being alert to the specific needs of vulnerable children, especially those with a social worker, special educational needs, a disability and young carers and promote their educational outcomes by sharing relevant information with teachers and leaders about welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues;
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3.4 Designated Safeguarding Lead

The responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead are found in Annex B of "Keeping children safe in education" and include:

- Liaising with the Governing Body and the Local Authority on any deficiencies brought to the attention of the Governing Body and how these should be rectified without delay.
- Management and referral of cases of suspected abuse to Specialist Services First Response Children's Duty (and/or Police where a crime may have been committed).

- Referral of cases to the Channel programme (through local police Prevent Engagement Team) where there is radicalisation concern
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise within the school and liaising with staff on matters of safety and safeguarding (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral, by liaising with relevant agencies.
 - To attend and contribute to child protection and other multi-agency safeguarding meeting conferences when required.
 - Being alert to the specific needs of vulnerable children in need, those with special educational needs and disability and young carers
 - Ensuring each member of staff has access to and understands the school's safeguarding/child protection policy especially new or part-time staff who may work with different educational establishments;
 - Ensuring all staff have induction training covering child protection, the pupil behaviour policy, children who go missing, and staff behaviour. Staff will be trained to recognise, record and report any concerns immediately they arise and will be provided with Part 1 of "Keeping children safe in education" and Annex A to those working directly with children;
 - Keeping detailed, signed and dated accurate and secure written records of concerns, actions and referrals;
 - Obtaining access to resources and effective training for all staff and attend refresher training courses every two years. Keep up to date with new developments in safeguarding by accessing briefings and journals at least annually.
 - Where children leave the school, ensuring their child protection file is handed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and signed for in the new school/college as soon as possible (best practice is face-to-face meetings – this will be in advance of the pupil arriving where specific ongoing support is required.
 - Maintaining and monitoring secure child protection records, including monitoring and acting upon individual concerns, patterns of concerns (e.g. children who repeatedly go missing) or complaints, in accordance with the section on "Records, Monitoring and Transfer" below.

4 Records, Monitoring and Transfer

4.1 Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. All staff are clear about the need to record and report concerns about a child or children within the school. Concerns are to be written down, signed and dated and passed immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead – or a Deputy. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for such records and for deciding

at what point these records should be shared with to other agencies (in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR principles).

4.2 Records relating to actual or alleged abuse or neglect are stored apart from normal pupil or staff records. Normal records sometimes have markers to show that there is sensitive material stored elsewhere. This is to protect individuals from accidental access to sensitive material by those who do not need to know.

4.3 Child protection records are stored securely, with access confined to specific staff, eg Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Headteacher.

4.4 Child protection records are reviewed regularly to check whether any action or updating is needed. This includes monitoring patterns of complaints or concerns about any individuals and ensuring these are acted upon. A casefile chronology, summarising case activity and significant events in the child's life helps to enable effective monitoring. Any actions are clearly indicated.

4.5 When children transfer school their safeguarding records are also transferred. Safeguarding records will be transferred separately from other records and best practice is to pass these directly to a Designated Safeguarding Lead in the receiving school, with any necessary discussion or explanation and to obtain a signed and dated record of the transfer. Where a child needs specific ongoing support, relevant information will be transferred prior to the child arriving at their new school. In the event of a child moving out of area and a physical handover not being possible then the most secure method should be found to send the confidential records to a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and a photocopy kept until receipt is confirmed. Files requested by other agencies e.g. Police are copied.

5 Support to pupils and school staff

5.1 Support to pupils

- Our school recognises that children who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and view their lives in a positive way and that this is likely to adversely impact their mental health and emotional well-being. It is therefore important that staff recognize that mental health concerns for such children school may be one of the few stable, secure and predictable components of their lives. Other children may be vulnerable because, for instance, they have an allocated social worker, have a disability, are in care, a care-leaver or previously looked after, or are experiencing some form of neglect. Our school seeks to remove any barriers that may exist in being able to recognise abuse or neglect in pupils with Special Educational Needs or a disability. We will seek to provide such children with the necessary support to build their self-esteem and confidence, helping them to secure the very best educational outcomes they are able to achieve. The context in which safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours occur, whether in school or within or outside the home (including online), will be considered by staff, particularly the DSL and Deputy DSLs. Any associated threats or risks will be included in assessments and relevant information included in referrals to Children's Social Care (this is known as contextual safeguarding).

General indicators of abuse and neglect (from Part 1 of the statutory guidance) are also included in Appendix 7 of this policy and further information about specific forms of abuse are contained within Appendix A of the statutory guidance, “Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020”.

5.2 Peer on Peer Abuse - This school recognises that children sometimes display abusive behaviour themselves and that such incidents or allegations must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention. Such abuse will not be tolerated or passed off as “banter” or “part of growing up”. This abuse could for example include sexual violence and sexual harassment, upskirting initiation/hazing type violence, all forms of bullying, aggravated sexting and physical violence experienced by both boys and girls. However, peer on peer abuse is more likely to be perpetrated by boys on girls. There are a number of school and local authority or Leicestershire Safeguarding Partnership guidance and policies to address these concerns including the pupil Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, E-safety Policy, “Guidance for schools working with children who display harmful sexual behaviour” (Leicestershire LA Guidance) and the DFE guidance in sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges. Where an incident has occurred or specific risks are identified, a formal risk assessment will be undertaken in order to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils, appropriate support to minimise the risk of future harm. A risk assessment and support will be offered to both the alleged victim and the child or young person accused and a referral to any relevant outside agency will be made eg. police/social care. Procedures are detailed in the linked school policies mentioned above.

5.3 Sexting - School will always respond if informed that children have been involved in ‘sexting’ (youth produced sexual imagery). The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) guidance, “Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people” will be used to guide the school’s response on a case by case basis.

The key points being:

- Inform the Headteacher/DSL as soon as possible
- Support the children involved as appropriate and in accordance with their best interests
- Inform all parents of involved children unless by doing so you put a child at risk
- Images will not be viewed by school staff
- If school is to deal with the matter, involve parents in ensuring the images are deleted

If there is evidence of exploitation, blackmail or the deliberate targeting of a vulnerable student, inform the police

5.4 Sexual violence and sexual harassment – Sexual violence refers to sexual offences as –described under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 including rape and sexual assault. Sexual harassment is ‘unwanted conduct of a sexual nature’ that can occur online and offline and may include sexual name-calling, taunting or “jokes” and physical behaviour, for example, deliberately brushing against

someone or interfering with clothes. Evidence shows that girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are more likely to be the victims of sexual violence and harassment and boys are more likely to be the perpetrators. However sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between children of any gender.

'Upskirting' is also a criminal offence (under the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019) and typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without them knowing, in order to obtain sexual gratification or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm (anyone of any gender can be a victim). Evidence shows that girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are more likely to be the victims of sexual violence and harassment and boys are more likely to be the perpetrators. However, sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between children of any gender.

Curriculum

- Planned PHSE and Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education will include a number of safeguarding issues as set out in the DfE statutory guidance. This will be appropriate to pupils' age and stage of development. It will also be underpinned by the school's behaviour policy and pastoral support system.

Responding to an incident

- School will follow the DfE guidance, 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges', May 2018.
- Relevant staff will liaise with the police, social care and parents as appropriate.
- Support will be offered to both the alleged victim(s) and children accused. Parents will be included in discussions about the format that this support will take.

5.5 Children missing including absence from school

Our school recognises the entitlement that all children have to education and will work closely with the local authority to share information about pupils who may be missing out on full time education or who go missing from education. The local authority will also be informed where children are to be removed from the school register a) to be educated outside the school system; b) for medical reasons; c) because they have ceased to attend; d) because they are in custody; d) because they have been permanently excluded. We also recognise that when children go missing this is a sign that they have been targeted by perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation and/or children may be groomed in to participating in other forms of criminal exploitation including cybercrime, serious violence and violent crime, Children who attend an alternative education, an agreed reduced timetable are more likely to be vulnerable to these forms of exploitation, drug related criminals (County Lines).

5.6 Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point or are targeted by criminals involved in the illegal supply of drugs (County Lines). Staff training includes raising awareness of this issue and any concerns are passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will make a risk assessment and refer to Local Authority First Response Children's Duty if appropriate.

5.7 So-called 'honour-based' abuse encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the so-called "honour" of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (see appendix 6), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. All forms of so called Honour Based Abuse are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and concerns will be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for onward referral as required.

5.8 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. 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. In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator. The abuse 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. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point or are targeted by criminals involved in the illegal supply of drugs (County Lines) and serious violent crime. 'County Lines' involves drug networks or individuals exploiting children and young people into carrying drugs and money between cities, towns and villages. Serious violent crime can be associated with this form of criminal activity together with child sexual exploitation. Children may also be exploited into committing cybercrime or money laundering offences and organised criminal groups or individuals may exploit children and young people with enhanced computer skills to access digital networks and/or data for criminal and financial gain. Children with bank accounts may be persuaded to allow criminals to use their banking facilities to launder money. Criminal exploitation of children is a form of harm that can affect children in both a physical environment and online. Staff training includes

raising awareness of these issues and any concerns are passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will make a risk assessment and refer to Local Authority First Response Children's Duty if appropriate.

5.9 Private fostering arrangements - Where a child under 16 (or 18 with a disability) is living with someone who is not their family or a close relative for 28 days or more, staff inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead so that a referral to Children's Social Care for a safety check, can be made. (A close relative includes step-parent, grandparents, uncle, aunt or sibling).

5.10 Complaints or concerns raised by parents or pupils will be taken seriously and followed up in accordance with the school's complaints process.

6. Support for Staff

As part of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people staff may hear information, either from the child/young person as part of a disclosure or from another adult that will be upsetting. Where a member of staff is distressed as a result of dealing with a child protection concern, he/she should in the first instance speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about the support they require. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should seek to arrange the necessary support.

7 Working with parents/carers

The school will:

- Ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers and seek necessary consent prior to involvement of Children & Family Services (Children's Social Care) or another agency, unless to do so would place the child at risk of harm or compromise an investigation.

8 Other Relevant Policies

8.1 The Governing Body's statutory responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of children goes beyond simply child protection. The duty is to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activity and functions. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other policies, for instance

- Behaviour regulation policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Racist incidents
- Anti-Bullying (including Cyberbullying)

- Physical Interventions/ Restraint (DfE Guidance “Use of Reasonable Force” and “Screening, searching and confiscation”)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Trips and visits
- Work experience and extended work placements
- First aid and the administration of medicines
- Health and Safety
- Relationships Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education
- Site Security
- Equal Opportunities
- Toileting/Intimate care
- e-safety
- Extended school activities

The above list is not exhaustive but when undertaking development or planning of any kind the school will consider the implications for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

9 Recruitment and Selection of Staff

9.1 The school’s safer recruitment processes follow the Statutory Guidance: *Keeping children safe in education September 2020, Part Three: Safer recruitment.*

9.2 The school will provide all the relevant information in references for a member of staff about whom there have been concerns, ie about child protection / inappropriate conduct. Cases in which the conclusion of an allegation has been unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious will not be included in employer references. A history of repeated safeguarding concerns or allegations which have all been found to be unsubstantiated, malicious etc. will also not be included in a reference.

9.3 The school has an open safeguarding ethos regularly addressing safeguarding responsibilities during staff meetings and fostering an ongoing culture of vigilance. All new staff and volunteers receive a safeguarding induction and are briefed on the code of conduct for adults working with children. The Leicestershire County Council induction leaflet is given to all staff and is the basis for the safeguarding induction.

9.4 In line with statutory requirements, every recruitment process for school staff will have at least one member (teacher/manager or governor) who has undertaken safer recruitment training.

9.5 Staff and volunteers who provide early years or later years childcare and any managers of such childcare are covered by the disqualification regulations of the Childcare Act 2006 and are required to declare relevant information - see statutory guidance: Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (July 2018).