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Written by	Ryan Goodwin	01/09/2026	01/09/2027
Reviewed by	Debbie Goode	01/09/2026	01/09/2027
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Legal Status

This policy is based on the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory safeguarding guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education, and Generative artificial intelligence (AI) in education.

Policy Applies to: -

- All staff (teaching and non-teaching) and volunteers working within TILT Education

Related Documents: -

- Photography and image sharing guidance.
- E-Safety Policy
- Behaviour for Success Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- PSHE & RSE Policy
- SEND Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy
- Statement of Equality
- Whistleblowing
- Code of Conduct for Staff
- Health and Safety Policy

Availability

This Policy is made available to staff, parents and pupils, a paper copy may be obtained from the TILT Education office.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is subject to continuous monitoring, refinement, and audit by the Proprietors who are both the Head of Centre and Headteacher.

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PART 1: Policy

1.1 Definitions

Safeguarding 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.

Child Protection is defined in the Children Act 1989 (s.47) as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Under statutory guidance and legislation action must be taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

1.2 Introduction

At TILT Education

- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children, their families and carers, has a role to play.
- In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should always consider what is in the **best interests** of the child.
- We take an '**it can happen here**' approach where safeguarding is concerned.
- **Everyone** who comes into contact with children has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
- Victims of harm should **never** be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Schools and colleges and their staff are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children, as described in the statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children*.
- Research and local child safeguarding practice reviews have repeatedly shown the dangers of failing to take effective action, including failing to act on early signs, poor record keeping, failing to listen to the child, and poor information sharing.
- TILT Education takes an 'it can happen here' approach to safeguarding, ensuring vigilance and prompt action.

TILT Education is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by:

- The provision of a safe environment in which children and young people can learn.
- Acting on concerns about a child's welfare immediately.
- Fulfilling our legal responsibilities to identify children who may need Family Help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

All action taken by TILT Education will be in accordance with:

- **Current legislation** (these are summarised within <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>)

- **Statutory, national, and local guidance – this includes:**

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026)**, which sets out the multiagency working arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm; in addition, it sets out the statutory roles and responsibilities of schools.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)** is statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education which all schools and colleges must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- **Local Guidance from the Local Safeguarding Partnership:** around particular safeguarding topics are available on the [Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#).

1.3 Equalities Statement

With regards to safeguarding we will consider our duties under the [Equality Act 2010](#) and our general and specific duties under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#). General duties include:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. Foster good relations across all protected characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Staff are aware of the additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

TILT Education also adheres to the principals of and promotes anti-oppressive practice in line of the [United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child](#) and the [Human Rights Act 1998](#).

1.4 Overall Purpose and Aims

The purpose of TILT Education's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is to ensure we:

- Are committed – developing a robust culture of vigilance
- Build resilience – raising awareness of safeguarding and child protection issues, and equipping children with the language and skills to keep themselves safe
- Establish a safe environment – in which children can learn and develop within an ethos of openness and are taught to treat each other with respect, to feel safe, to have a voice and are listened to
- Support vulnerable pupils – supporting pupils who have been abused, have witnessed violence towards others or may be vulnerable to abuse
- Prevent unsuitable people – from working with children by ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with our children. And to maintain an active vigilance thereafter

The aim is to follow the procedures set out by Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 by:

- Knowing that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, and the voice of the child is evident
- Protecting children and young people at our school from maltreatment

- Preventing impairment of our children and young people's health or development
- Ensuring young people at our school grow up in circumstances consistent with the provisions of safe and effective care.
- Offering children a balanced curriculum including PHSE, healthy relationship education, online safety, sexting
- Offering children and young people balanced curriculum through online activities, enabling them to enhance their safeguarding skills and knowledge whilst understanding the risks.
- Understanding that no single professional can have the full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their family has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
- Undertaking the role to enable children and young people at our school to have the best outcomes.
- Ensuring as a school we have a clear understanding of our staff's knowledge and understanding, and embedding safeguarding through clear systems of communication and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) so that safeguarding is a robust element of our school.

1.5 Professional expectations, roles, and responsibilities

1.5.1 Role of all staff

- All staff will read and understand Part 1 of statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026).
- In addition to this all staff will be aware of the procedures in place which support safeguarding including reading this Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy; the Behaviour for Success Policy; Code of Conduct; safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Know who and how to contact the DSL and any deputies and the Proprietor.
- All staff will be able to identify vulnerable pupils and take action to keep them safe. Information or concerns about pupils will be shared with the DSL where it includes those:
 - who may need a social worker and may be experiencing abuse or neglect;
 - requiring mental health support;
 - may benefit from Family Help;
 - where there is a radicalisation concern;
 - where a crime may have been committed.
- Be clear as to the setting's policy and procedures about [child on child abuse](#), children missing education and [those requiring mental health support](#), and the [impact of technology in relation to online safety](#).
- Be involved where appropriate, in the implementation of individual plans to further safeguard vulnerable pupils and understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for their pupils.
- Record concerns appropriately and in a timely manner by using the setting's safeguarding systems.
- To be aware of the need to raise to the senior leadership team any concerns they have about safeguarding practices within TILT Education.
- All staff must be aware of the procedures to manage any safeguarding concern or allegation (no matter how small) about staff members, including supply staff, volunteers, and contractors.
- Staff must report safeguarding concerns or allegations about other staff members immediately to the Head of Centre or Headteacher.
- Where concerns involve the Head of Centre or Headteacher, these should be reported to the Lado.
- Staff should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe safeguarding practice and know that such concerns will be taken seriously by senior leadership.

- Whistleblowing procedures are in place for raising concerns, with external channels such as the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line available if internal reporting is not possible.

1.5.2 - Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Duties are further outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026, Annex C)

Details of our DSL and Deputy DSL are available on the **TILT Education** website or the notice board in the office.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Thomas Brookes
- The DSL is a senior member of staff who undertakes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within TILT Education.
- The Deputy DSL is Ryan Goodwin
- As the Deputy DSL is also a Proprietor, the DSL has been given written confirmation of their authority to contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) directly on any safeguarding matter they consider cannot be dealt with internally, so that the DSL role can be discharged independently of the Proprietors, including in relation to any concern involving a Proprietor or their family.
- The DSL and Deputy DSL are also responsible for online safety.
- Activities include the management of work undertaken by any Deputy DSLs.
- Manages early identification of vulnerability of pupils and their families from staff through cause for concerns or notifications. This will ensure detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- The DSL works with the deputy DSL, and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that pupils in need are experiencing or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on pupil's attendance, engagement and achievement at school or college.
- The DSL is responsible for managing allegations against staff and liaising with the LADO.
- The DSL ensures safeguarding concerns are recorded accurately and securely, and referrals are made promptly.
- The DSL supports staff in following safeguarding procedures and coordinates multi-agency working.

The DSL will also:

- Work with others – acting as a point of contact for outside agencies about safeguarding.
- Support and advise other staff in making referrals to other agencies.
- When required, liaise with the case manager and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in relation to child protection cases which concern a staff member.
- Coordinate safeguarding training and raise awareness and understanding to TILT Education community around policies and practice in relation to safeguarding.
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing information about vulnerable pupils with relevant staff. This includes ensuring that staff:

- know who these children are,
 - understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for their pupils.
 - Are supported to identify the challenges that children in this group might face.
 - Provide additional academic support or make reasonable adjustments to help children who have **or have had** a social worker to reach their potential.
- Ensure the successful transfer of the Safeguarding/Child Protection File when a pupil moves on to a new setting within 5 days for in year transfer or the first 5 days of the start of a new term.
 - Ensure appropriate safeguarding cover and availability during term time/ any out of hours/out of term activities managed by TILT Education.

1.5.3 - Role of the Proprietor

Duties are further outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)

There is a senior board level lead who takes responsibility for the setting's safeguarding responsibility to ensure that safeguarding and child protection practice, process, and policy (including online safety) is effective and is compliant with legislation, statutory guidance, and Local Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.

- Ensure that TILT Education remedies any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to its attention without delay;
- Ensure that this document is updated annually (or when there are significant updates)
- Ensure that the DSL is an appropriate senior member of setting's senior leadership team and ensure that they have adequate time, funding, training, resources, and support to carry out their role effectively.
- Ensure that the training and learning for TILT Education community is robust and effective.
- Ensure that pupils are taught about safeguarding on the curriculum including online safety in compliance with statutory guidance [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education)
- To ensure that teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers, and contractors have appropriate checks carried out in line with statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe In Education (2026).
- Ensure that there are procedures in place to manage safeguarding concerns or allegations against teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers, and contractors who may not be suitable to work with or pose a risk to pupils, this includes having a process to manage low level concerns.
- Ensure that systems are in place for pupils to effectively share a concern about a safeguarding issue they are experiencing, express their views and give feedback.
- Ensure that the setting has systems in place to prevent, identify and respond to child-on-child abuse (including sexual abuse and sexual harassment) and mental health concerns, and review the effectiveness of the setting's online safety practices.
- Appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement for children in care and other care arrangements.
- The Proprietor must ensure procedures are in place to manage safeguarding concerns and allegations against staff, including referrals to the DBS and Teaching Regulation Agency where required.
- The Proprietor oversees the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and ensures compliance with statutory guidance.

1.6 Safeguarding training for staff - All staff:

- The proprietor will ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) training at induction.
- Will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online safety) refresher training at least annually (via formal training, email e-bulletins and staff meetings).
- All staff must complete FGM awareness training and will understand their legal duty under the Mandatory Reporting Duty.
- All staff must complete PREVENT awareness training. This is to ensure that they can comply with the legal expectations under the PREVENT duty.
- Staff training includes clear reference to internal whistleblowing policy and guidance for escalating concerns.

1.6.1 - Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies:

- Will undergo formal training to provide them with the knowledge and skills (including online safety) training required to carry out the role. The training will be updated every two years.
- Deputies will be trained to the same level as the DSL.
- The DSL and any deputies will liaise with the Local Safeguarding Partnership to ensure that their knowledge and skills are updated via e-bulletins, attend DSL network meetings, and take time to read and digest safeguarding bulletins.

1.6.2 - Other training considerations:

- Members of the Senior Leadership Team will make themselves aware of and understand their role within the local safeguarding arrangements. This will ensure that those who have responsibility for the management of behaviour, inclusion, Special Educational Needs, attendance, and exclusions will carry out their duties with a safeguarding consideration.
- The Designated Teacher for Children in Care will undergo appropriate training to fulfil their role to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are in care.
- The mental health lead has access to appropriate training.
- Training around safeguarding topics in Annex B (including online safety) will be integrated, aligned, and considered as part of a whole school safeguarding approach.
- Appropriate colleagues have received appropriate training in relation to use of reasonable force and positive handling.

1.7 Safeguarding in the curriculum

TILT Education is dedicated to ensuring that pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. We recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all pupils, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable pupils, victims of abuse and some SEND children might be needed. This is part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

This includes:

- Working within statutory guidance in respect to [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education)
- PSHE and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education), to explore key areas such as self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, power, building resilience to radicalisation, e-safety and bullying.
- Appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to ensure that 'over- blocking' does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what pupils can be taught about online teaching and safeguarding.
- The curriculum will be shaped to respond to safeguarding incident patterns in the setting

identified by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and safeguarding team (e.g., to respond to an increase in bullying incidents).

- Providing engagement opportunities with parents and carers to consult on key aspects of the curriculum.

1.8 Safer recruitment and safer working practice

1.8.1 - Safer recruitment

TILT Education pays full regard to the safer recruitment practices detailed in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2026)

- This includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history, and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. References are always obtained, scrutinised and concerns resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.
- It also includes undertaking appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), the barred list checks and prohibition checks (and overseas checks if appropriate), dependent on the role and duties performed, including regulated and non-regulated activity.
- Recruitment materials reference the school's commitment to safeguarding and promoting pupil wellbeing.
- Safer working practises are followed to prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

1.8.2 - Use of reasonable force

'Reasonable force' refers to the physical contact to restrain and control children using no more force than is needed.' The use of reasonable force is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and will be determined by individual circumstances and the vulnerability of any child with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) will be considered.

- The use of reasonable force will be minimised through positive and proactive behaviour support and de-escalation and will follow government guidance ([Use of Reasonable Force in Schools 2013](#); [Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention, 2019](#)).
- There is robust recording of any incident where positive handling or restraint has been used. Further review of the incident is carried out to reflect on how the incident could be avoided, this will involve the child and their family.

The process around how the setting manages concerns where a professional may pose a risk to pupils and our response to low level concerns can be accessed in section [2.8 Allegations of abuse made against professionals](#).

1.8.3 - Whistleblowing procedures

Staff are aware of the following whistleblowing channels for situations where they feel unable to raise an issue with the senior leadership team or feel that their genuine concerns are not being addressed:

- General guidance can be found at: Advice on whistleblowing <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>.
- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available [here](#) for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk.
- The above channels are clearly accessible to all staff (in the staff handbook, code of conduct and staff notice boards).

1.9 Key safeguarding areas

These topics are themes that can impact on children and families, there are specific areas of safeguarding that the setting has statutory responsibilities to address which are hyperlinked:

- Children in the court system
- Children affected by parental offending/imprisonment.
- [Children missing from education](#) – including persistent absence.
- [Child Exploitation](#) (including both Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation and county lines, modern day slavery and trafficking)
- Cybercrime
- [Domestic Abuse](#)
- Homelessness
- So-called Honour based Abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage),
- [Online Safety](#)
- [Mental health](#)
- Misogyny (recognised in KCSIE 2026 as an escalating safeguarding indicator linked to harmful sexual behaviour – see section 2.7).
- Gender-questioning children (see Appendix E).
- [Child on Child abuse](#):
 - Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).
 - Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers.
 - Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse).
 - Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault;(this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence).
 - Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.
 - Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.
 - Consensual and non-consensual making or sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery).
 - AI-generated or manipulated sexual images of children (deepfakes), which are treated as indecent images and a criminal matter regardless of whether the child depicted is real.
 - Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm; and
 - Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)
- [Serious Youth Violence](#)
- Substance Misuse
- [Private Fostering](#)
- [Young Carers](#)

Additional information about key safeguarding areas can also be found in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026; Annex B); the [NSPCC website - Types of Abuse](#); And for localised resources for education settings [Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#)

PART 2: Procedures

2.1 Reporting concerns

Any concerns about a child will be recorded in writing within 24 hours. All records will provide a factual and evidence-based account and there will be accurate recording of any actions. Records will be kept on TILT Educations LEARNTREK system.

At no time should an individual teacher/member of staff or school be asked to or consider taking photographic evidence of any injuries or marks to a child's person, this type of behaviour could lead to the staff member being taken into managing allegations procedures. The body map below should be used in accordance with recording guidance. Any concerns should be reported and recorded without delay to the appropriate safeguarding services, e.g. MASH or the child's social worker if already an open case to social care.

Staff will record any minor concerns on LEARNTREK and will take responsibility for alerting the designated person should the number of concerns rise or, in their professional judgement, become significant.

Safeguarding, child protection and welfare concerns will be recorded and kept on LEARNTREK

Files will be available for external scrutiny for example by a regulatory agency or because of a serious case review or audit.

Why recording is important?

Our staff will be encouraged to understand why it is important that recording is comprehensive and accurate and what the messages are from serious case reviews are in terms of recording and sharing information.

LEARNTREK recordings will show:

- A referral to MASH/Children's Social Care.
- A number of minor concerns on the child's main school file.
- Any child open to social care.
- A chronology.
- A record of concern in more detail and body map, where appropriate.
- A record of concerns and issues shared by others and with other agencies

TILT Education will keep records of concern about children even where there is no need to refer the matter to MASH/Children's Social Care (or similar) immediately. These records will be kept on LEARNTREK

Records will be kept up to date and reviewed regularly by the Senior Designated Person to evidence and support actions taken by staff in discharging their safeguarding arrangements. Original notes will be scanned into LEARNTREK to be retained (but clearly identified as such) as this is a contemporaneous account; they may be important in any criminal proceedings arising from current or historical allegations of abuse or neglect.

If the child moves to another school, the LEARNTREK file will be sent or taken, as part of the admission/transition arrangements, to the Senior Designated Person at the new establishment/school. There will be a timely liaison between each school Senior Designated Person for Safeguarding to ensure a smooth and safe transition for the child.

Recording Practice:

Timely and accurate recording will take place when there are any issues regarding a child.

A recording of each and every episode/incident/concern/activity regarding that child, including telephone

calls to other professionals, needs to be recorded on LEARN TREK for that child. This will include any contact from other agencies who may wish to discuss concerns relating to a child. Actions will be

agreed, and roles and responsibility of each agency will be clarified and outcomes recorded. **NB all recordings are made on LEARN TREK**

More detailed analysis, taking account of the holistic needs of the child, and any historical information is held on the child's LEARN TREK file. Support and advice will be sought from social care, or Family Help (formerly known as 'Family Help') whenever necessary. In this way a picture can emerge, and this will assist in promoting an evidence-based assessment and determining any action(s) that needs to be taken. This may include no further action, whether an EHAF should be undertaken, or whether a referral should be made to MASH/Children's Social Care in line with the Cheshire East Multi-Agency Threshold of Need Guidance (Right Help, Right Time).

Such robust practice across child protection and in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children will assist TILT Education in the early identification of any concerns which may prevent future harm.

The Senior Designated Person will have a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm (through the concern file and through an ongoing dialogue with pastoral staff). They will ensure that we contribute to assessments of need and support multi-agency plans for those children.

All staff are clear about recording and reporting concerns to the DSL/DSL deputies in a timely way. In the case a pupil is in immediate danger, staff should phone the police.

All staff are aware of and follow the procedures to respond to a concern about a child detailed above. This includes responses to child-on-child abuse and pupils who present with a mental health need.

At TILT Education pupils can raise their concerns **directly with the DSL (Thomas Brookes), the Deputy DSL (Ryan Goodwin, Proprietor and Head of Centre), or the Headteacher (Debbie Goode)** and they will be treated seriously and managed appropriately.

- Staff must take immediate action when they have concerns about a pupil's welfare, following the child protection policy and reporting to the DSL.
- The DSL or staff will make referrals to children's social care and/or the police as appropriate.
- Referrals should be acted upon within one working day.
- The school will consider pastoral support and Family Help assessments where appropriate.
- Staff should continue to monitor the child's circumstances and re-refer if necessary.
- The child's best interests must always come first.

2.2 Information Sharing

TILT Education is committed to have due regard to relevant data protection principles which allow for sharing (and withholding) personal information as provided for in the Data protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations. This includes how to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal and should be treated as 'special category personal data'.

Staff at the setting are aware that:

- 'Safeguarding' and 'individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data.
- Practitioners will seek consent to share data where possible in line with [Information Sharing for Safeguarding Practitioners 2018](#).

There may be times when it is necessary to share information without consent such as:

- To gain consent would place the child at risk,
- by doing so will compromise a criminal investigation,
- It cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent,
- or, if by sharing information it will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner, but it is not possible to gain consent.

There are also times when TILT Education will not provide pupil's personal data where the serious harm test under legislation is met, (by sharing the information the child may be at further risk). When in doubt TILT Education will seek legal advice.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable pupils.

The DSL and Deputy DSL will regularly review and monitor those pupils who have been identified as vulnerable. This can include reviewing attendance data, behaviour data, attainment data and safeguarding records. This is to ensure that:

- Proportionate and early interventions can be taken to promote the safety and welfare of the child and prevent escalation of harm.
- Information about vulnerable pupils is shared with teachers and school and college leadership staff to promote educational outcomes.
- Pupils who currently have, or have had, a social worker will have their academic progress and attainment reviewed and additional academic support will be provided to help them reach their full potential.
- Reasonable adjustments are made in relation to school-based interventions – for example responding to behaviour.

2.4 Multi-agency working

TILT Education will work together with appropriate agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children including identifying and responding to their needs. This is in compliance with statutory guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>.

Occasions that warrant a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989:

- If the child is in need under s.17 of the Children Act 1989 (including when a child is a young carer and or subject to a private fostering arrangement).
- Or if the child needs protection under s.47 of the Children Act 1989 where they are experiencing significant harm, or likely to experience significant harm.

Referrals in these cases should be made by the DSL (or Deputy DSLs) to Children's Social Care in the local authority in which that child resides. The list of safeguarding contact and other key agencies are listed in [Appendix B](#).

Where the child already has a social worker, the request for service should go immediately to the social worker involved or, in their absence, to their team manager. If the child is a child in care, notification should also be made to the home Virtual School.

TILT Education will co-operate with any statutory safeguarding assessments conducted by children's social care: this includes ensuring representation at appropriate inter-agency meetings such as integrated support plan meetings initial and review child protection conferences and core group

meetings.

2.5 Suspensions, permanent exclusions, and commissioning of Alternative Provisions - (To be read in conjunction with the Behaviour for Success Policy)

When the setting is considering suspending or permanently excluding a pupil where additional vulnerability is identified it is important that the pupil's welfare is a paramount consideration. The Head of centre /headteacher/Proprietor **TILT Education** will consider their legal duty of care when sending a pupil home.

TILT Education will exercise their legal duties in relation to their interventions. This includes:

- 2.4.1** whether a statutory assessment should be considered in line with the principles of [Children Act 1989](#),
- 2.4.2** that decisions are made in an anti-discriminatory manner in line with the [Equality Act 2010](#) (including having regard to the [SEND Code of Practice](#))
- 2.4.3** and takes into consideration the pupil's rights under the [Human Rights Act 1998](#).
- 2.4.4** Interventions will be consistent with statutory guidance [School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

2.5.1 - Actions to take

- An assessment of need should be undertaken with multi-agency partners with a view to mitigate any identified risk of harm this in line with [2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable pupils](#).
- In the event of a one-off serious incident resulting in an immediate decision to exclude, the risk assessment *must* be completed.

2.5.2 - Commissioning Alternative Provisions

In the event where TILT Education commissions an Alternative Provision they will follow local guidance of [Cheshire East- Commissioning alternative provision](#) to ensure clear agreement of roles and responsibilities to maintain safeguarding arrangements for pupils who are not taught on site.

TILT Education will continue to be responsible for the safeguarding of that pupil and will make necessary checks on the provider to meet the needs of the pupil. Written confirmation from the Alternative provider will be obtained of the checks on staff that we would otherwise perform for our own staff.

2.6 Children Missing from Education (To be read in conjunction with the Attendance Policy)

A pupil missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, or maybe an indicator of need for Family Help support. Staff should follow procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. These should be reported to the DSL and reviewed in line with [2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable pupils](#).

TILT Education will follow the guidance detailed in [Children Missing Education \(2016\)](#) and [Cheshire East- Children Missing Education](#)

This will include notifying the local authority in which the child lives:

- of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly,
- or has been absent without TILT Education's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between TILT Education and the local authority.

2.6.1 - Elective Home Education

TILT Education will notify the Local Authority of every pupil where a parent has exercised their right to educate their child at home. Safeguarding files should be shared with the Local Authority Elective Home Education service and consideration of whether additional support from children's social care should be made in line with the Children Act 1989.

2.7 Respond to incidents of child-on-child abuse.

All staff should recognise that children can abuse their peers (including online). It is important that incidents of abuse and harm are treated under safeguarding policy in conjunction with the Behaviour for Success Policy. However, concerns regarding the welfare of pupils requires process and records to be kept on the child's safeguarding/child protection file.

Further examples of child-on-child abuse this can be found under section [1.9 Key Safeguarding Areas](#). It is recognised that child on child abuse can happen inside and outside of school/college or online.

KCSIE 2026 frames child-on-child abuse as a continuum – harmful sexual behaviour, sexual harassment and sexual violence – recognising that unchallenged harassment can escalate into more serious harm; staff should intervene at the earliest point on this continuum, not only once abuse is severe.

At TILT Education

- We have a 'zero tolerance' approach to abuse. Incidents are taken seriously. These will never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter,' just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up.' Banter and teasing can and should be acknowledged and recognised as bullying behaviour and may require proportionate intervention.
- Even with a zero-tolerance approach, we take steps to educate and take action ensure to mitigate the risk of contributing to a culture of unacceptable behaviours or a culture that normalises abuse.
- It is understood that child on child harm may reflect equality issues in terms of those who may be targeted are more likely to have protected characteristics.
- Misogyny and misogynistic language are treated as a safeguarding indicator, not solely a behavioural matter – staff will challenge this early given its recognised escalatory link to harmful sexual behaviour.
- Early identification of vulnerability to child-on-child abuse is made by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.

There are clear systems in place (which are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible) for pupils to confidently report abuse knowing their concerns will be treated easily as reflected in section [2.1 Reporting a concern](#) of this policy. TILT Education will handle initial reports of harm by:

- Securing the immediate safety of pupils involved in an incident and sourcing support for other young people affected.
- Listening carefully to the child, being non-judgmental, being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed, not asking leading questions and only prompting the child where necessary with open questions – where, when, what, etc;
- Ensuring that victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. They will never be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Ensuring the child's wishes are taken into consideration in any intervention and any action is taken to ensure safety of the target and other members of the wider peer cohort.
- Not promising confidentiality as it is highly likely that information will need to be shared

with others.

2.7.1 Actions to take in relation to sexual violence and sexual harassment. Reference to Keeping Children Safe In Education (2026) and guidance Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (Keeping Children Safe in Education Annex B) should be made in relation to taking protective action. **TILT Education** will take the following actions when responding to incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment:

- Incidents will be reported immediately to the DSL/ Deputy DSL who will undertake further assessment of what action should be taken proportionate to the factors that have been identified.
- DSLs/Deputies will take **proportionate** action and consider whether a case can be managed internally, through Family Help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with the section [2.4 - Multi-Agency Working section](#).
- When an incident involves an act of **sexual violence** (rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault) the starting point is that this should be passed on to police **regardless** of the age of criminal responsibility (10 years old). This must be reported directly via 101 for recording purposes and accountability. This is on the understanding that the police will take a welfarist approach rather than a criminal justice one. A concurrent referral to social care must also be made. A strategy can be requested where education can voice explicitly concerns of criminalisation in a multi- agency context.
- When the children involved require a statutory assessment either under s.17 or s. 47 of the Children Act 1989 a referral to social care should be undertaken.
- Where the report includes an online element, the setting will follow [Searching, screening and confiscation at school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The key consideration is for staff not to view or forward illegal images of a child. The highlighted advice provides more details on what to do when viewing an image is unavoidable.
- Risk assessments and or safety plans will be developed for individual children who have been involved in an incident. This should be reviewed every 3 months or every time there is an occurrence of an incident. These should involve the child and parents/carers and address contextual risks.

2.7.2 - Contextual safeguarding approach to child-on-child abuse:

TILT Education will minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by taking a contextual approach to safeguarding by increasing safety in the contexts of which harm can occur – this can include TILT Education environment itself, peer groups and the neighbourhood.

Following any incidents of child-on-child abuse, the DSL/Deputies will review and consider whether any practice or environmental changes can be made in relation to any lessons learned. This can include making changes to staffing and supervision, making changes to the physical environment and considering the utilisation and delivery of safeguarding topics on the curriculum.

2.8 Responding to allegations of abuse made against professionals.

Staff must report any concerns or allegations about a professional's behaviour (including supply staff, volunteers, and contractors) where they may have:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

2.8.1 - Immediate action must be taken:

- Do not speak to the individual it concerns.
- Allegations or concerns about colleagues and visitors must be reported directly to the Head of Centre/ Headteacher/Proprietor who will follow guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026, Part four: Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff).
- If the concern relates to /Head of Centre / Headteacher/Proprietor it should be reported directly to the [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#) and they will decide on any action required.
- If there is a conflict of interest which inhibits this process of reporting, staff can report directly to the LADO.
- If allegations are regarding a member of supply staff, TILT Education will take the lead and progress enquiries with the LADO, whilst continuing to engage and work with the employment agency.
- Allegations regarding foster carers or anyone in a position of trust working or volunteering with children should be referred to the LADO on the day that the allegation is reported. The allocated social worker should also be informed on the day. TILT Education should not undertake any investigation unless the LADO advises this.

2.8.2 - Low level concerns

This should be read in conjunction with the staff code of conduct and Keeping children Safe in Education (2026, Part 4). A low-level concern is not insignificant. This process should be used in events where a concern about professional conduct does not meet the threshold set out at the beginning of this section.

- Reports should be made to the DSL or Deputy DSL. Where a concern relates to the Proprietor, who also holds the Deputy DSL role, this should be reported directly to the LADO. TILT Education creates an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation.
- The DSL will address unprofessional behaviour and support the individual to correct it at an early stage providing a responsive, sensitive, and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised.
- Review and correct any deficits in the setting's safeguarding system.

2.9 Mental health and wellbeing.

Schools and colleges have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their pupils. Mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation, and or may require Family Help support.

TILT Education will commit to undertake the following.

- Early identification of vulnerability to mental health problems by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment, and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.
- Ensure that pupils can report and share concerns in line with section [2.1 Reporting a concern](#) of this policy.
- Staff will follow a safeguarding process in terms of reporting concerns outlined in [Appendix B](#) so the DSL/Deputy DSLs (and wider members of the safeguarding team such as the SENDCo) can assess whether there are any other vulnerabilities can be identified and proportionate support considered.
- Staff will ensure the immediate health and safety of a pupil who is displaying acute mental health distress. This may require support from emergency services via 999 if the pupil is at risk of immediate harm.
- DSLs/Deputies will consider whether a case can be managed internally, through Family Help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with section [2.4 - Multi-Agency Working](#).
- The setting will communicate and work with the pupil and parents/carers to ensure that interventions are in the best interests of the child.
- DSLs will liaise with staff to ensure reasonable adjustments are made and develop ways to support achieving positive educational outcomes.
- Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem – DSLs and the senior leadership team should be able to access specialist advice through targeted services.

2.9.1 - Contextual safeguarding approach to mental health

TILT Education will ensure that preventative measures in terms of providing safeguarding on the curriculum will provide opportunities for pupils to identify when they may need help, and to develop resilience.

The setting will take a 'whole school approach' to:

- deliver high quality teaching around mental health and wellbeing on the curriculum.
- having a culture that promotes mental health and wellbeing;
- having an environment that promotes mental health and wellbeing;
- making sure pupils and staff are aware of and able to access a range of mental health services;
- supporting staff wellbeing
- And being committed to pupil and parent participation

2.10 Online Safety

Online safety is an integrated and interwoven theme with other safeguarding considerations. It is essential that the DSL takes a lead on ensuring that interventions are effective. This means coordinating support and engaging with other colleagues in the setting who may have more technological expertise.

TILT Education is committed to addressing online safety issues around content, contact, conduct and commerce. This includes:

- Ensuring that online safety is concerned in relevant policies and procedures.
- Online safety is interwoven in safeguarding training for staff and safeguarding on the curriculum for pupils.
- Acknowledging that child on child abuse can happen via mobile and smart technology between individuals and groups. This should be approached in the same process outlined in section [2.7 Responding to incidents of child-on-child abuse](#) and read in conjunction with TILT Education's ESAFETY policy.
- Provision of education via remote learning will comply with governmental advice [Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- The effectiveness of the setting's ability to safeguarding pupils in respect to filtering and monitoring, information security and access management alongside the above will be reviewed annually.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education

TILT Education recognises the increasing use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in education (e.g., AI chatbots, image generators, coding assistants). While these technologies offer opportunities for learning, they also present safeguarding, ethical, and data protection risks.

Safeguarding Risks:

- Exposure to inappropriate, biased, or harmful content generated by AI.
- Misuse of AI to create abusive, discriminatory, or sexualised material.
- Use of AI to facilitate bullying, harassment, or exploitation (including deepfakes).
- Over-reliance on AI tools that may impair independent learning, resilience, or critical thinking.

Expectations for Staff:

- Staff must supervise and guide the use of AI tools with pupils.
- Staff should not upload or share personal, sensitive, or safeguarding information about pupils into AI systems.
- Any safeguarding concern arising from AI use must be reported in line with existing safeguarding procedures.
- Staff should remain vigilant to AI-generated misinformation or inappropriate content.

Expectations for Pupils:

- Pupils will be taught about the safe and ethical use of AI within the curriculum, as part of online safety and digital literacy education.
- Pupils must not use AI tools to produce harmful, discriminatory, or abusive content.
- Misuse of AI tools will be treated under the school's behaviour and safeguarding policies.

Monitoring and Governance:

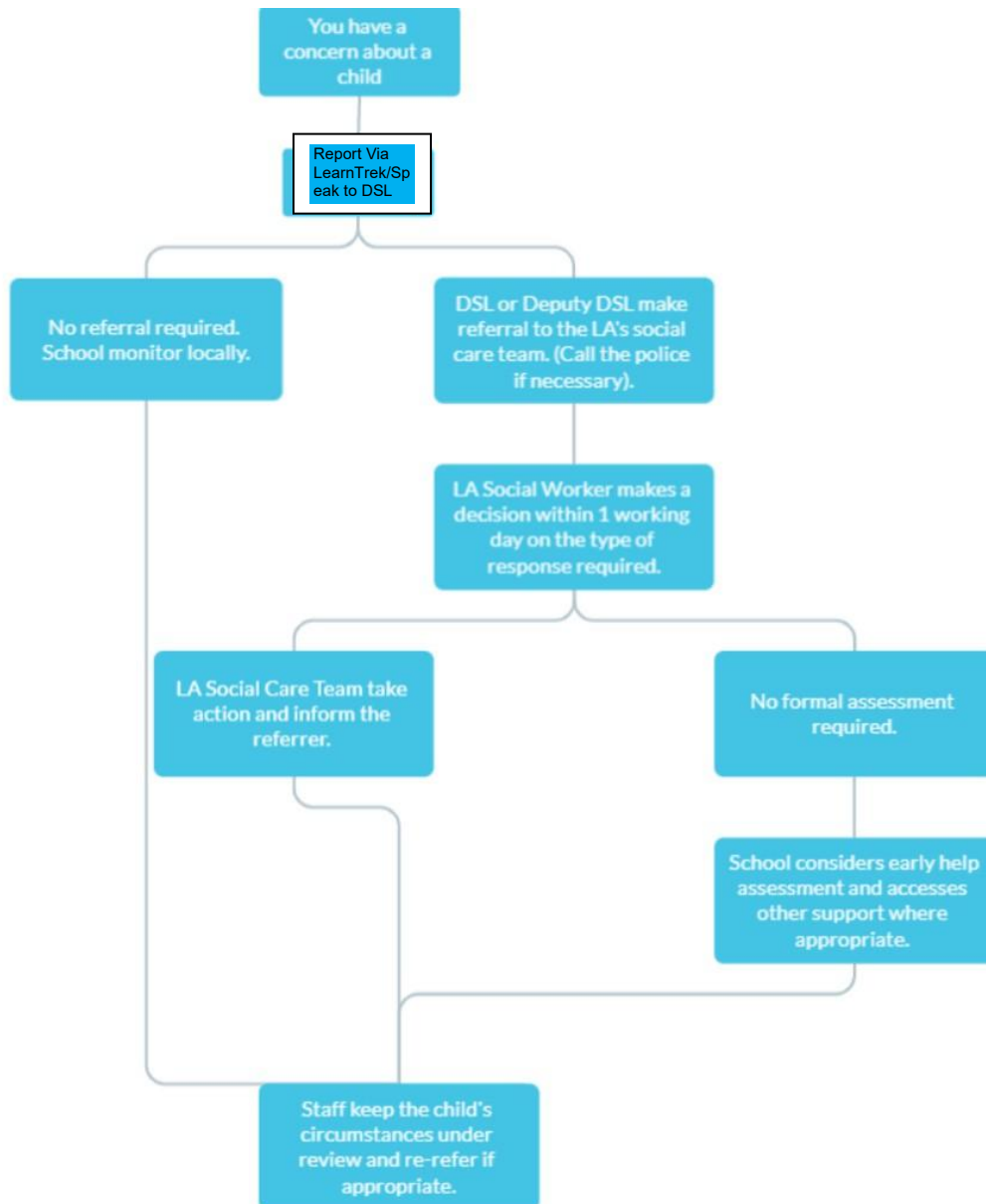
- The DSL is responsible for ensuring AI use is considered within safeguarding risk assessments.
- The Proprietor will review emerging risks linked to AI annually as part of policy review.
- AI use will be monitored to ensure compliance with data protection, safeguarding, and ethical standards.

Appendix A – Key Guidance for safeguarding issues.

All key education sector policies relevant for education settings can be found on the following webpage
<https://www.cescp.org.uk/professionals/safeguarding-in-education.aspx>

Appendix B – Reporting concerns

➤ Reporting Concerns Flow Chart –



➤ Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) [Referrals: 0300 123 5012, option 3](tel:03001235012) | Out of hours: 0300 123 5022

Appendix C - Dealing with a disclosure of abuse

When a child tells me about abuse, they have suffered, what must I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell them you are pleased that they are speaking to you.
- Never promise confidentiality. Assure them that you will try to help but let the child know that you may have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information. Use 'Tell Me, Explain to me, Describe to me' (TED) questioning.
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that they have a right to be safe and protected.
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged offender.
- Be aware that the child may retract what they have told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. Include any questions you may have asked. Do not add any opinions or interpretations.

NB It is not education staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

- The 5 'R's are helpful in understanding what professional's duties are in relation to responding to an incident.

Recognise – Respond – Reassure – Refer - Record

Appendix D - Types of abuse and neglect

The Department for Education's Tackle Child Abuse campaign has accessible videos to watch <https://tacklechildabuse.campaign.gov.uk/>

Abuse and neglect are defined as the maltreatment of a child or young person whereby someone may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

All school staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another. For children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) additional barriers can exist when identifying abuse and neglect, these include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- being more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

To address these additional challenges, schools and colleges should consider extra pastoral support for children with SEND (KCSIE, 2026).

The following are the definition of abuse and neglect as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026) however, the ultimate responsibility to assess and define the type of abuse a child or young person may be subject to is that of the Police and Children's Services – our responsibility is to understand what each category of abuse is and how this can impact on the welfare and development of our children and where we have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of abuse and neglect (one or more categories can apply) to take appropriate action as early as possible.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate

ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Appendix E Specific actions to take on topical safeguarding issues

General or national guidance will not be included here. A summary of specific duties are in [Keeping children safe in education 2026 Annex B](#) and Access to local guidance can be found in [Appendix A](#) of this document.

In recognition that the threshold of child protection is 'likely to suffer' significant harm, TILT Education may need to make a referral to children's social care. Where possible, this will involve notifying the parent/carer if it does not place the pupil at further risk of harm. In all other circumstances information will be shared in line with section [2.2 Information Sharing](#).

It is also important to recognise the importance of liaising with other education settings who may have siblings attending. It is likely that they may hold additional information which will support early identification of harm and in turn develop your assessment of need.

Child Exploitation – both Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

TILT Education will ensure that Family Help intervention is provided as soon as a concern of exploitation is identified. Discussion and advice will be sought from targeted services to consider what support may be available. The pupil and their families will be part of any planning and interventions.

- If the pupil is at risk of CSE or there is intelligence which indicates that the pupil or peer group are at risk of CSE, TILT Education will share information with the police. This information will support proactive activity to disrupt criminal activity in relation to sexual exploitation.
- If the pupil is at risk of CCE information should be shared with Cheshire East Youth Offending Team. The Youth Offending Team can advise and support settings to manage risk. Targeted support may be available to disrupt pupils from getting involved with criminality.

Domestic Abuse

Operation Encompass is a national operation where local police forces notify when the police are called to an incident to domestic abuse. Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) is the 'front door' for access to services, support and advice for children and their families, from Family Help and support through to safeguarding and child protection.

- Each setting should promote an open culture of safeguarding to enable pupils and families to disclose and feel safe to talk about their experiences and what support may be required.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mandatory reporting duty: [Click here for government guidance](#)

This is a legal duty for all professionals undertaking teaching work to report known cases of FGM to the police via 101. This is when they:

1. are informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
2. observe physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on

These cases must be referred to the DSL who will support them to carry out their duty. It is also advised any referrals made to the police under the mandatory reporting duty is followed up with children's social care so an assessment of need and support is concurrently considered.

Travel:

National guidance has highlighted going on holiday to a risk affected country is cause for concern, local guidance has been developed to prevent discriminatory action against families from risk affected communities.

- Families are encouraged to notify the education setting when they are looking to travel during term time dates.
- This will prompt a conversation with the DSL/ specialist trained member of staff to discuss and explain what FGM is in that; it is significantly harmful and illegal to practice this.
- Proportionate action is taken. Referrals to social care should NOT be automatically made – however should be made if there are high risk concerns identified from the FGM Referral Risk Assessment.
- These assessments should be saved onto the child's Safeguarding/Child Protection file

to avoid duplication with new incidents of travel.

Online Safety

- **Annex D of Keeping Children Safe in Education highlights additional actions schools should take to keep pupils safe online.**
- For concerns around individual cases where a child has been harmed through online mediums, advice and guidance can be made through the **Professional Online Safeguarding Helpline**, T: 0344 381 4772, E: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
- Where there have been established cases of online abuse or grooming, TILT Education settings should alert - **Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (CEOPS)** <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>

Mental health – [linked to section within main body of this policy](#)

Child on Child Abuse - [linked to section within main body of this policy](#).

Serious Youth Violence

To be read in conjunction with the above section around Child Criminal Exploitation.

It is important to note that should a weapon be used or there is threat of use, the police should be called immediately.

- Alternatives to exclusions should be considered first in recognition that by doing so a pupil may be at further risk of harm out in the community.
- Police will be notified to prevent pupils unnecessarily getting a criminal record.

Preventing Radicalisation - The Prevent duty

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter- Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard 109 to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.¹¹⁰ This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

The Prevent duty should be seen as part of schools’ and colleges’ wider safeguarding obligations. Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the revised [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#), especially paragraphs 57-76, which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare).

The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes:

- risk assessment,
- working in partnership,
- staff training, and
- IT policies.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child:

- under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled)
- by someone other than a parent or close relative (*Close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half- siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.)
- with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

Cases of private fostering arrangements must be reported to children's social care to ensure that needs are adequately made.

Statutory guidance states that this should be done at least 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to start or as soon as you are made aware of the arrangements. Not to do so is a criminal offence.

Further support and reasonable adjustments should be made by the education setting to promote achievement of positive educational outcomes.

Young Carers

A young carer is a person under 18 who regularly provides emotional and/or practical support and assistance for a family member who is disabled, physically or mentally unwell or who misuses substances.

The setting will support pupils who are young carers to appropriate support. To find out what is available locally visit the Cheshire East Councils Website -

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/looking-after-someone/young-carers/young-carers-support.aspx>

The Carers Support Centre can undertake an assessment of need and provide bespoke support.

<https://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/young-carers/making-a-referral/>

Legal Status

Gender-Questioning Children

KCSIE 2026 sets out new guidance on supporting gender-questioning children. TILT Education will treat each child as an individual, avoid making assumptions, and involve parents/carers in decisions affecting a child's welfare and any request for a change in how the child is treated at school, except where doing so would itself place the child at greater risk of harm (for example, risk of rejection or abuse at home). Any such case will be discussed with the DSL, who will seek advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer or children's social care where there is doubt about the right course of action.

National Contacts:

- Police (non-emergency 101, Emergency 999)
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) CEOP Safety Centre
- Professionals Online Safety Helpline – 0844 381 4772 Safer Internet Helpline
- Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) – Internet Watch Foundation
- Safer Internet Centre – helpline@saferinternet.org.uk
- Childline – 0800 1111 Childline

- Ofsted – General enquiries: 0300 123 1231
- About Schools: 0300 123 4234
- Concerns: 0300 123 4666 e-mail: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
- HM Government (advice on protecting children from radicalisation for parents, teachers and leaders) www.educateagainsthate.com Page 48 of 48
- NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour project: 0844 892 0273

Useful Websites:

- [Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#)
- [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre \(CEOP\)](#)
- NSPCC – 24-hour Child Protection Helpline 0808 800 5000
- WOMENS AID - 24 Hour Helpline: 0870 2700 123