



Sheldwich Primary School & Little Hedgehogs Pre-School



Child Protection Policy

This is a core policy that forms part of the induction for all staff. It is a requirement that all members of staff have access to this policy.

Date written: August 2026

Date agreed and ratified by Trustees:

Date of next full review: August 2027

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and/or following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures.

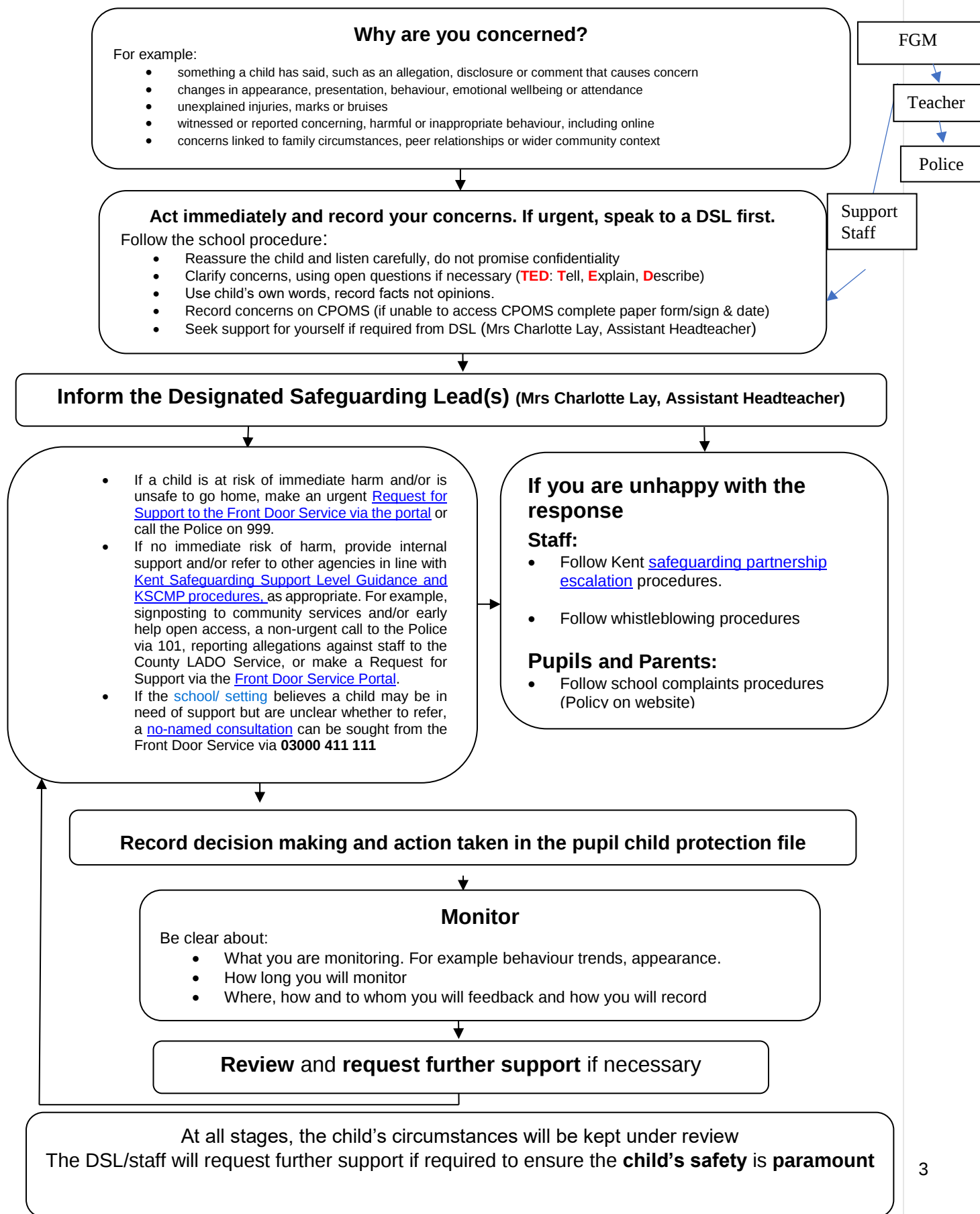
Key Contacts

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What to do if you have a welfare concern in Sheldwich Primary School or Little Hedgehogs Pre-School



1. Child Focused Approach to Safeguarding

1.1 Introduction

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre- School will provide a high-quality, welcoming, safe, and stimulating environment where children can enjoy learning and grow in confidence. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will provide age-appropriate educational opportunities to enable early years children to develop positive relationships, self-regulation, social and emotional understanding, communication, language and understanding to help them understand how to keep themselves safe, and the importance of being kind to others.
- We recognise that as an early years education provider, we play an essential role in helping children to understand and identify the parameters of what is appropriate child and adult behaviour; what is 'safe'; to recognise when they and others close to them are not safe; and how to speak to trusted adults who can support them when they are concerned. Children at Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will be listened to and heard and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise our statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everybody's responsibility** and everyone has a role to play. All members of our community (staff, volunteers, governors, leaders, parents/carers, wider family networks, and pupils) have an important role in safeguarding children and all have an essential role to play in making our community safe and secure.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School believes that the best interests of children always come first. All children, defined in law and in this policy as anyone under the age of 18, have a right to be heard, protected and supported. This policy applies to all children, including those living with birth parents or extended family, children in kinship care, adopted children, looked after children, previously looked after children and care leavers. Where safeguarding concerns relate to pregnancy, staff will also consider the help, support and protection needs of unborn children.
- All children have equal rights to protection, regardless of age, sex, ability, culture, race, language, religion, belief, sexual orientation or identity. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive, anti-discriminatory safeguarding culture. Staff are expected to recognise and challenge racism, discrimination and prejudice, and to consider how these experiences may affect children's safety, welfare and access to support.
- Staff working with children at Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff will always act in the best interests of the child and if any member of our community has a safeguarding concern about any child or adult, they should act and act immediately.
- This policy applies where there are any child protection concerns regarding children who attend Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School but may also apply to other children connected to Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School, for example, siblings, or younger members of staff (under 18s) or children on student/work placements.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within school that will help children to be safe and to feel safe. In our school

children are respected and are encouraged to talk openly. We will ensure children's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what safeguarding action to take and what services to provide. We are committed to developing a child-centered environment and fostering an open and positive organisational culture in which children feel safe, secure, valued, and respected, confident to talk openly and are sure of being listened to.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that babies and young children may not always be able to verbally tell adults what is happening to them. Staff will be alert to children's behaviour, appearance, communication, development, play, interactions, attendance, physical signs and emotional wellbeing, and will report concerns to the DSL in line with this policy.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children's behaviour, presentation and experiences should be understood in context. Staff will take a trauma-informed and child-centred approach, considering the possible root causes of behaviour and the impact of abuse, neglect, exploitation, discrimination, adversity and wider contextual or extra-familial harm.
- Our core safeguarding principles are:
 - **Prevention:** providing a positive, supportive and safe culture, curriculum and pastoral opportunities for children, alongside safer recruitment procedures.
 - **Protection:** following agreed procedures and ensuring all staff are trained and supported to recognise and respond appropriately and sensitively to safeguarding concerns
 - **Support:** adopting a child-centred approach and providing appropriate support for pupils, parents/carers and staff, including specific interventions for those who may be at risk of harm.
 - **Collaboration:** working with parents/carers, where safe and appropriate, and with other agencies to ensure timely, proportionate and effective safeguarding action is taken.
- The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, including trustees, temporary or third-party agency staff and volunteers, and are consistent with those outlined within 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2026.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School follows the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) procedures. The full KSCMP procedures and additional guidance can be found on the KSCMP website.

1.2 Policy context

- This policy is implemented in accordance with our compliance with the statutory guidance from the Department for Education, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2026 (KCSIE) which requires individual schools and colleges to have an effective child protection policy and this policy has been developed in accordance with the safeguarding and welfare requirements set out in section 3 of the Department for Education's (DfE) Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework for group and school-based providers 2026, which is mandatory for early years providers.
- This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and related guidance. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC) 2026
 - Ofsted: Education Inspection Framework' 2026
 - Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families 2000

- [Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures](#)
 - Early Years and Foundation Stage Framework 2026 (EYFS)
 - The Education Act 2002
 - Education and Inspections Act 2006
 - The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
 - The Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015
 - The Human Rights Act 1998
 - The Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty)
- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires school governing bodies, local education authorities and further education institutions to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children who are pupils at a school, or who are students under 18 years of age. Such arrangements will have to have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will follow local or national guidance in response to any emergencies. We will amend this policy and our procedures as necessary but regardless of the action required, our safeguarding principles will always remain the same and the welfare of the child is paramount.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will continue to follow government guidance in response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic; regardless of the action required, our safeguarding principles will always remain the same. We will amend this policy and our approaches, as necessary.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise that as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, some members of our community may have been exposed to a range of adversity and trauma including bereavement, anxiety and in some cases experienced increased welfare and/or safeguarding risks. We will work with local services, such as health and the local authority, to ensure necessary support is in place.

1.3 Definition of safeguarding

- In line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and KCSIE, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:
 - providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
 - protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
 - 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
 - promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the child(ren)
 - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and is defined as activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suspected to be suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. This includes harm that occurs inside or outside the home, including online.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School understands that significant harm is the threshold used to determine when statutory child protection intervention may be required. Under the Children Act 1989, "Harm" is the "ill treatment or the impairment of the health or development of the child". Harm can be determined "significant" by "comparing a child's health and development with what might be reasonably expected of a similar child". There are no absolute criteria for determining significant

harm. Significant harm may arise from a single serious incident or from a pattern of acute, longstanding, chronic or cumulative concerns which impair a child's health or development.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that safeguarding concerns are rarely isolated. Children may experience multiple and overlapping harms, including abuse, neglect, exploitation, online harms and extra-familial harm. Our safeguarding response will consider the full context of a child's lived experience, including their relationships, family circumstances, peer groups, community, online activity and wider environment.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School acknowledges that safeguarding includes a wide range of specific issues including (but not limited to):
 - Abuse and neglect
 - Bullying, including cyberbullying
 - Child-on-child abuse
 - Children with family members in prison or affected by parental offending
 - Children who are absent or missing from education
 - Child missing from home or care
 - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
 - Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
 - Contextual safeguarding (risks outside the family home)
 - County lines and gangs
 - Domestic abuse
 - Drugs and alcohol misuse
 - Fabricated or induced illness
 - Faith abuse
 - Gender based abuse and violence against women and girls
 - Hate
 - Homelessness
 - Human trafficking and modern slavery
 - Mental health
 - Nude or semi-nude image sharing, aka youth produced/involved sexual imagery or "Sexting"
 - Online safety
 - Preventing radicalisation and extremism
 - Private fostering
 - Relationship abuse
 - Serious violence
 - Sexual violence and sexual harassment
 - So-called 'honour-based' abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage
 - 'Upskirting'

(Also see Part one and Annex B within 'Keeping Children Safe in Education')

1.4 Related safeguarding policies

- This policy is one of a series in Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School's integrated safeguarding portfolio that supports compliance with the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements and should be read and actioned in conjunction with the policies as listed below (these documents can be found in the Safeguarding box file in the staffroom):
 - Behaviour, including behaviour management and use of physical intervention
 - Staff Code of conduct/Behaviour policy
 - Complaints
 - Confidentiality
 - Searching, screening and confiscation
 - Online safety
 - Social media
 - Mobile and smart technology
 - Anti-bullying
 - Data protection and information sharing
 - Image use
 - Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)
 - Personal and intimate care
 - Health and safety, including plans for reopening
 - Attendance
 - Risk assessments, such as school trips, use of technology, re-opening
 - First aid and accidents, including administering medication and managing illness, allergies, health, and infection
 - Managing allegations against staff
 - Staff behaviour policy/code of conduct, including Acceptable Use of Technology Policies (AUP)
 - Safer recruitment
 - Whistleblowing

EYFS Policies:

- Attendance, including lost or missing children
- Arrivals and departures, including collection procedures and uncollected child arrangements
- Behaviour management, including use of physical intervention
- Complaints
- Confidentiality
- Data protection and information sharing
- Emergency procedures, such as evacuations and lockdowns
- First aid and accidents, including administering medication and managing illness, allergies, health, and infection
- Health and safety
- Image use
- Managing allegations against staff
- Mobile phone, cameras and all other electronic devices
- Online safety
- Personal and intimate care, including toilets and intimate hygiene
- Risk assessments, such as trips/outings, use of technology, environment
- Safe and healthy eating
- Safer recruitment
- Sleep and rest policies
- Social media

- Staff behaviour policy/code of conduct, including Acceptable Use of Technology Policies (AUP)
- Ratios and lone working expectations, in line with EYFS
- Visitors' policy
- Whistleblowing

Supporting Guidance (to be read and followed alongside this document)

- "Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People in Education Settings" - [Safer Recruitment Consortium](#)
 - "What to do if you are worried a child is being abused" – DfE, March 2015
 - [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused](#)
 - [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE)
 - [Education Inspection Framework](#) (EIF) and 'Early years inspection handbook' Ofsted
 - [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young People in Education Settings](#) - Safer Recruitment Consortium
 - [Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations](#) UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS)
- These documents can be found in Safeguarding box file in the staffroom.

1.5 Policy compliance, monitoring and review

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will review this policy at least annually (as a minimum) and will update it as needed, so that it is kept up to date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve, including lessons learnt. The policy will also be revised following any national or local updates, significant local or national safeguarding events and/or learning, and/or any changes to our own procedures.
- All staff (including temporary staff and volunteers) will be provided with a copy of this policy and Part One of KCSIE. Copies can also be found in the Safeguarding box file in the staffroom and on SharePoint.
- The Board of Trustees, working with the senior leadership team and DSL, will ensure mechanisms are in place to support all staff to understand and discharge their safeguarding roles and responsibilities as set out in Part one of KCSIE.
- Parents/carers can obtain a copy of the Child Protection Policy and other related policies on request. Additionally, our policies can be viewed via the school website (<https://www.sheldwich.kent.sch.uk/>).
- The policy forms part of our development plan and will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees who has responsibility for oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Headteacher will provide regular reports to the Board of Trustees on safeguarding activity, systems and themes. Reports will support effective oversight and challenge but will not include details that identify individual pupils or families, unless this is required for a specific safeguarding purpose and is lawful and appropriate.

1.6 Safer Organisational Culture

- As part of our approach to safeguarding, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will create and embed an organisational culture of openness, trust and transparency, where our values and expected behaviours, as set out in our staff behaviour policy/code of conduct, are understood, lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff.
- Sheldwich Primary school and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure processes, training and support are in place to promote continuous vigilance, deter and prevent abuse, challenge inappropriate behaviour and ensure any concerns are dealt with promptly and appropriately.
- All staff are required to work within clear guidelines on safer working practice, as outlined in our staff behaviour policy/code of conduct. This includes expectations relating to professional conduct, staff taking medication or other substances, smoking and vaping, staff: child ratios, supervision, safer eating, mobile phones, cameras, smart technology and the use of setting-provided or personal devices.
- Staff will be made aware of relevant policies and procedures, including behaviour management, physical intervention, health and safety, first aid, safer eating, intimate care, online safety, and mobile phones and electronic devices. Any physical intervention, first aid, safer eating practice or behaviour support will be in line with our agreed policies, the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements, and relevant national guidance.
- All staff will be made aware of the professional risks associated with social media, electronic communication and technology use, including email, messaging, mobile phones, smart devices and online platforms. Staff will follow relevant policies, including the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct, mobile phones and electronic devices policy, Acceptable Use Policy and social media policy.
- All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice, safeguarding failures, or behaviour which may place children at risk. The leadership team at Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take all concerns and allegations seriously and respond to them promptly and appropriately.
- All staff will be made aware of our whistleblowing procedure. Staff may also access the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline via 0800 0280285 or help@nspcc.org.uk if they do not feel able to raise concerns about child protection failures internally. Workers who make qualifying whistleblowing disclosures are protected by law and should not be treated unfairly because they have raised concerns.
- It is a disciplinary matter not to report concerns about the conduct of a colleague that could place a child at risk. Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue internally or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, they should use our whistleblowing procedure and/or seek advice from appropriate external agencies.
- Staff are encouraged and should feel confident to self-refer to the DSL and/or leadership team if they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, may appear compromising to others, or if on reflection they believe they have behaved in a way that falls below expected professional standards. All such concerns will be reported and recorded in line with setting procedures.

2 Key Responsibilities

2.1 Governance and leadership

- The Board of Trustees and Leadership Team have a strategic responsibility for our safeguarding arrangements and will comply with their duties under legislation. The Board of Trustees have regard to the KCSIE guidance and will ensure our policies, procedures and training is effective and complies with the law at all times.
- The Board of Trustees will facilitate a whole school approach to safeguarding which involves everyone. They will ensure that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development, so that all systems, processes, and policies operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.
- The Board of Trustees and leadership team will ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place so that timely action is taken to safeguard and promote children's welfare. The headteacher will ensure that these policies and procedures are understood and followed by all staff.
- The Board of Trustees are aware of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and the local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements set out by the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership ([KSCMP](#)).
 - This includes but is not limited to safeguarding all members of the school community (for example, staff, pupils, parents/carers and other family members) identified with protected characteristics within the Equality Act; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
 - For further information about our approaches to equality, diversity, and inclusion, please access our website.
- The Board of Trustees will ensure an appropriate senior member of staff, from the school leadership team, is appointed to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Board of Trustees and Leadership Team will ensure that the DSL is supported in their role and is provided with sufficient time so they can provide appropriate support to staff and children regarding any safeguarding and welfare concerns.
- The Board of Trustees and leadership team will promote an inclusive, anti-discriminatory safeguarding culture and ensure staff are supported to identify, understand and challenge racism, discrimination and disproportionality in safeguarding practice.
- The Board of Trustees will ensure an appropriate senior member of staff, from the school leadership team, is appointed to the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). They will ensure the DSL and any deputies have the appropriate status, authority, time, funding, training, resources and support to carry out the role effectively.
- The school has a nominated trustee for safeguarding. The nominated trustee will support the DSL and have oversight in ensuring that the school has an effective policy which interlinks with other related policies, that locally agreed procedures are in place and being followed, and that the policies are reviewed at least annually and when required.

2.2 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- The school has appointed (Mrs Charlotte Lay, Assistant Headteacher), a member of the senior leadership team, as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- The DSL has overall responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of safeguarding and child protection systems (including online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place) in school. Whilst the activities of the DSL may be delegated to the deputies, the ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection remains with the DSL and this responsibility will not be delegated.
- The school has also appointed a Deputy DSL who will have delegated responsibilities and act in the DSL's absence.
 - Mrs Sarah Garrett (Headteacher)
- The DSL will be more likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and will be the most appropriate person to advise staff on the response to any safeguarding concerns.
- The DSL will carry out their role in line with Annex B of KCSIE. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - managing referrals to the Front Door Service, the police, the Channel programme, the Disclosure and Barring Service and other agencies as required.
 - working with others, including the headteacher, senior leaders, relevant staff, social workers, early help services, Family Help workers, local authority services and other safeguarding partners.
 - acting as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff.
 - maintaining a confidential recording system for safeguarding and child protection concerns.
 - coordinating safeguarding action for individual children, including children who need a social worker, children receiving early help, children who are looked after or previously looked after, and children subject to child protection or child in need plans.
 - ensuring the school contributes to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and is appropriately represented at relevant safeguarding meetings.
 - ensuring locally established procedures, including Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership procedures are followed as necessary.
 - promoting educational outcomes by sharing relevant welfare, safeguarding and child protection information with teachers and school/college leadership staff, where appropriate.
 - taking lead responsibility for online safety, including understanding filtering and monitoring systems and processes.
 - ensuring staff access appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, and receive regular safeguarding updates.
 - keeping the headteacher informed of safeguarding issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
 - being aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult where there is a need for police detention, treatment or questioning.
 - ensuring child protection files are kept up to date, stored securely and transferred appropriately when a child moves setting.
- During term time, the DSL will be available during school hours for staff to discuss safeguarding concerns.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs use CPOMS which is monitored by DSL and Deputy DSL.

- Where the DSL is not available, the following arrangement is in place so that safeguarding concerns can be raised, received, monitored and acted on without delay.
 - Deputy DSL is notified through CPOMS and all staff know that urgent concerns must be reported immediately to the DSL, a deputy DSL, senior leader, or reported directly themselves to the appropriate service where urgent safeguarding action may be required.
- The school will ensure appropriate DSL cover arrangements are in place during any closures, out-of-hours activities and out-of-term activities arranged by the school.
 - This is achieved in through the CEOP link on the school website along with DSL contact details are available on the school website S
- The DSLs will undergo appropriate and specific training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. This training will be updated at least every two years. The DSLs knowledge and skills will be refreshed at regular intervals, and at least annually, to keep up with developments relevant to safeguarding and child protection

2.3 Members of staff

- All staff have an important role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. They are particularly well placed to observe changes in a child's behaviour, appearance, attendance or wellbeing, identify concerns early, provide help for children and prevent concerns from escalating.
- All members of staff have a responsibility to:
 - provide a safe environment in which children can learn and provide a safe environment in which children can **learn, play, develop and receive care**
 - be aware of the systems within Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School which support safeguarding, including this child protection policy, the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct, the safeguarding response to children who are absent from education, and the role of the DSL.
 - be aware of the indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation, so they can identify children who may need help or protection.
 - be prepared to identify children who may benefit from support before statutory intervention, including universal services, community-based Early Help, targeted early help through Family Help, and/or statutory support from children's social care, in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance and local procedures.
 - understand the local process for seeking advice and making referrals, including Requests for Support to the Front Door Service, and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance. This includes where a child may be in need, disabled, or suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.
 - know what to do if a child tells them they are being abused, neglected or exploited, and understand the impact this can have on a child.
 - maintain an attitude of professional curiosity and speak to the DSL if they have any concerns about a child.
 - be aware that 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.
 - know how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality, while understanding that early sharing of information is vital to keeping children safe.
 - ensure children are adequately supervised in line with our setting policies and EYFS requirements, including during eating, sleeping, toileting, intimate care, outdoor play, outings and the use of technology
 - reassure children who report concerns that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
 - undertake safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, and engage with regular safeguarding updates.

- act in line with the Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School staff behaviour policy/code of conduct and other relevant safeguarding policies.
- where applicable, act in line with the Teachers' Standards, which state that teachers, including headteachers, should safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession.
- Staff at Sheldwich Primary school and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as being abusive or harmful. This will not prevent staff from having professional curiosity and speaking to a DSL where they have concerns.
- Staff at Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will determine how best to build trusted relationships with children and parents/carers which support appropriate communication and early identification of needs and concerns. This will be achieved in line with relevant school policies, including the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct and pupil behaviour policy.

2.4 Children

- Children have a right to:
 - feel safe, be listened to, and have their wishes and feelings taken into account.
 - be taken seriously when they raise concerns about abuse, neglect, exploitation or any other safeguarding issue.
 - receive appropriate help and support from safe adults.
 - safely express their views, share concerns and give feedback about safeguarding arrangements.
 - contribute to the development of school safeguarding policies.
 - learn how to keep themselves and others safe, including online.

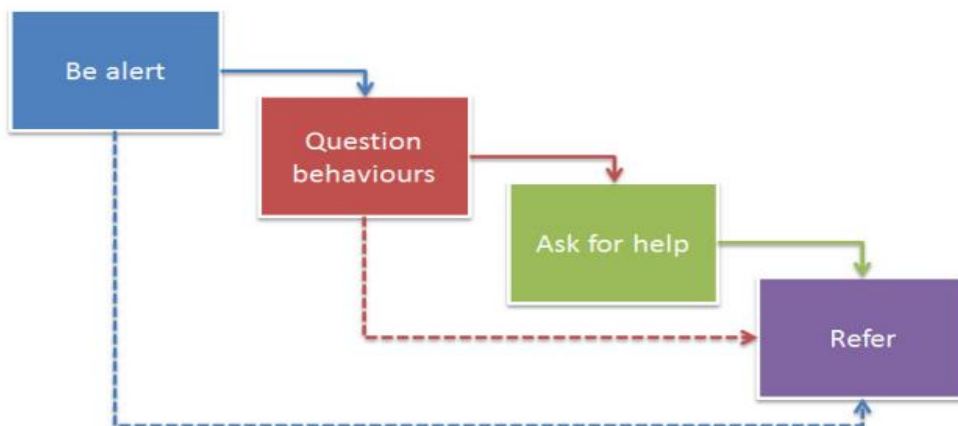
2.5 Parents and carers

- Parents/carers have an important role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of their children. They are encouraged to work in partnership with Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School and to:
 - understand and follow relevant school policies and procedures.
 - talk to their child, in an age-appropriate way, about safety, feelings, relationships, boundaries and who can help them
 - support the setting's safeguarding approaches, including expectations relating to attendance, collection arrangements, online safety, mobile phones and electronic devices, images, medication, allergies, safer eating and health needs
 - identify and share any behaviours, changes or concerns which may indicate that their child, or another child, may need help or may be at risk of harm, including online
 - seek help and support from the setting or other agencies if they are worried about their child's safety, welfare, development or wellbeing.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will work openly and transparently with parents/carers when there are safeguarding or welfare concerns. However, this will always be considered in line with safeguarding procedures and the best interests of the child and information may be shared without speaking to parents/carers first where this is necessary to safeguard a child, where seeking agreement may increase risk, cause delay, or undermine a safeguarding or criminal investigation.

3 Child Protection Procedures

3.1 Recognising indicators of abuse, harm, and neglect

- Staff will maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff will always act in the best interests of the child.
- All staff are made aware of the definitions and indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation as identified by 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Staff will also be expected to understand these indicators in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance.
-
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise that when assessing whether a child may be suffering actual or potential harm there are four categories of abuse (for more in-depth information, see appendix 1):
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Emotional abuse
 - Neglect
- By understanding the indicators of abuse, neglect, harm and exploitation we can respond to problems as early as possible and provide the right support and services for the child and their family.
- All members of staff are expected to be aware of and follow the 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' guidance if they are concerned about a child:



['What to do if you are worried a child is being abused'](#)

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that concerns may arise in many different contexts and can vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness. The indicators of child abuse, neglect, harm and exploitation can vary from child to child. Children develop and mature at different rates, so what appears to be worrying behaviour for a younger child might be normal for an older child. It is important to recognise that indicators of abuse, neglect, harm and exploitation do not automatically mean a child is being abused however all concerns should be taken seriously and will be explored by the DSL on a case-by-case basis.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises abuse, neglect, harm exploitation and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events and cannot always be covered by one definition or one label alone. In many cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another, therefore staff will always be vigilant and always raise concerns with a DSL.
- All staff will consider whether children may be at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation or harm in situations outside their families. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that extra-familial harms can take a variety of forms and that children may be vulnerable to multiple harms, including sexual abuse, sexual harassment and exploitation, domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships, criminal exploitation including financial exploitation, serious youth violence, county lines, online harms and radicalisation. Staff will report any concerns to the DSL in line with this policy, and the DSL will consider the wider context of the child's experiences when assessing risk and support needs.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that any child may benefit from support before statutory intervention is required. This may include support from universal services, community-based Early Help, or the targeted early help level of Family Help. Further information about how Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School responds to safeguarding and welfare concerns, including requests for support, is set out in section 3.2 of this policy.
- All staff will be alert to the potential need for additional support for children who may be more vulnerable or whose circumstances may indicate emerging, escalating or unmet needs. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for additional support for a child who:
 - is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
 - has special educational needs, whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care plan
 - has a mental health need
 - is a young carer
 - is pregnant and/or is a parent themselves
 - has exhibited early signs of abusive, violent and/or harmful behaviours
 - is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement, association with organised crime groups or county lines
 - is frequently missing or goes missing from education, home or care
 - electively home educated
 - has been repeatedly removed from the classroom, experienced multiple suspensions, is on a part-time timetable, is at risk of permanent exclusion, is attending alternative provision or is attending a Pupil Referral Unit
 - is at risk of exploitation, modern slavery or trafficking, including criminal or sexual exploitation
 - is at risk of being radicalised into terrorism
 - has a parent or carer in custody, or is affected by parental offending
 - is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues or domestic abuse
 - is misusing alcohol or other drugs themselves
 - is at risk of honour or faith-based abuse, such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage
 - is privately fostered.
- Where staff identify that a child may benefit from additional support, they will report their concerns to the DSL in line with this policy.

- Staff will be alert to:
 - concerns raised by children, including disclosures or comments about themselves, their peers or family members.
 - changes in a child's behaviour, appearance, attendance, presentation or emotional wellbeing.
 - indicators of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
 - concerning interactions between children and parents/carers.
 - parental behaviours which may indicate risk, including concerns linked to substance misuse, mental health, domestic abuse or other family circumstances.
 - risks outside the family home, including peer groups, the wider community and online context.
 - the needs of children with additional or complex needs, who may require additional support or specialist services.
- Children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone they are being abused, neglected or exploited. They may also not recognise their experiences as harmful. This should not prevent staff from having professional curiosity and speaking to the DSL if they have concerns.
- All reports and concerns raised by children will be taken seriously and responded to in line with this policy. Staff will reassure children that they are being taken seriously, that they will be supported and kept safe, and that they will not be made to feel ashamed or that they are creating a problem by reporting concerns.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that technology can be a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues; children are at risk of abuse, neglect, harm online from people they know (including other children) and from people they do not know; in many cases, abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life.
- Following a concern about a child's safety or welfare, the searching and screening of children and confiscation of any items, including any electronic devices, will be managed in line with the school behaviour policy and/or 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' policy which is informed by the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' guidance.
 - The DSL (or deputy) will be informed of any searching incidents where there were reasonable grounds to suspect a pupil was in possession of a prohibited item as listed in our behaviour policy. The DSL (or deputy) will then consider the circumstances of the pupil who has been searched to assess the incident against any potential wider safeguarding concerns.
 - Staff will involve the DSL (or deputy) without delay if they believe that a search has revealed a safeguarding risk.

3.2 Responding to child protection concerns

- Where safeguarding concerns are identified, the child's lived experience, voice and views will remain central to our decision-making, assessment and planning. . For babies and young children, this includes careful consideration of their behaviour, presentation, development, communication, interactions and physical signs.
- If staff are made aware of a child protection concern, they are expected to:
 - listen carefully to child, reflecting back the concern.
 - use the child's language.
 - be non-judgmental.

- avoid leading questions; only prompting the child where necessary with open questions to clarify information where necessary. For example who, what, where, when or Tell, Explain, Describe (TED).
 - not promise confidentiality as concerns will have to be shared further, for example, with the DSL and potentially Integrated Children's Services.
 - be clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed.
 - record the concern using the facts as the child presents them, in line with school record keeping requirements.
 - inform the DSL (or deputy), as soon as practically possible.
- All staff are made aware that early information sharing is vital for the effective identification, assessment, and allocation of appropriate support. This applies when concerns first emerge and where a child is already known to other agencies. Staff will not assume that a colleague or another professional will act or share information that may be critical in keeping a child safe.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children should not be seen or relied upon as protective factors for adults. When considering family circumstances, adult vulnerabilities or parental needs, staff will remain focused on the child's needs, safety, welfare and lived experience. Staff will not assume that a child's presence, behaviour, affection, resilience or relationship with a parent/carer reduces risk, prevents harm, or means that an adult's needs are safely managed.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will respond to safeguarding concerns in line with the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) procedures, the Kent Support Levels Guidance which follow the principle of 'Right Help, Right Time, Right Professional'.
 - The full KSCMP procedures and additional guidance relating to reporting concerns and specific safeguarding issues can be found on the KSCMP website: www.kscmp.org.uk
 - All staff will be made aware of the process for identifying, assessing and responding to children's needs in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance. This includes understanding the criteria, including the level of need, for when children and families may be supported through
 - universal services and community-based Early Help
 - the targeted early help level of Family Help, under sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004
 - statutory services under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children in need and disabled children
 - statutory child protection processes under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm
 - care and supervision proceedings under section 31 of the Children Act 1989
 - accommodation under section 20 of the Children Act 1989.
 - Staff are not expected to make threshold decisions alone. If staff are concerned about a child's welfare or safety or are unsure what level of support may be required, they will speak to the DSL in line with this policy. The DSL will consider the concern in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance, KSCMP procedures and local referral pathways.

- Where safeguarding concerns are identified, options may include:
 - managing support for the child internally through school pastoral, welfare and/or safeguarding support processes, where this is appropriate and does not place the child at additional risk.
 - considering whether parents/carers should be informed to further support the child's wellbeing, where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
 - accessing universal services and community-based Early Help for *children with emerging needs*, including support available through Kent Family Hubs, the school and other local universal, voluntary or community services.
 - making a Request for Support to the Front Door Service via the Kent Children's Services Portal where a child's needs cannot be met by universal or community-based early help support alone and coordinated, multi-disciplinary support may be required, or where there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.
- Community-based Early Help is support for children of all ages that improves a family's resilience, improves outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. It is not a single service, but a system of support delivered by local authorities and their partners, including education providers. The Kent Support Levels Guidance describes this as '*children with emerging needs (Level 2)*'.
 - Children at this level are usually best supported by professionals who already work with them, such as health professionals, early years settings, schools or colleges, and/or through community resources such as Family Hubs or voluntary services.
 - A Request for Support via Front Door Service is not required for support at this level.
 - Where community-based Early Help is appropriate, the DSL will consider what support can be provided within school and/or through local universal, voluntary or community services, including Kent Family Hubs.
 - Where the need of a child/family escalate, become persistent, or cannot be met by universal or community-based Early Help alone, the DSL will consider whether a Request for Support to Family Help is required in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance.
- Where children and families have multiple and/or complex needs, or persistent needs, which cannot be met by universal or community-based early help support alone, they may require coordinated, multi-disciplinary support to prevent escalation through the targeted early help level of Family Help. The Kent Support Levels Guidance describes this as '*Family Help – Children with multiple and/or complex needs (Level 3)*'. Support at this level may include targeted early help and statutory support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, where required to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.
 - A Request for Support is required and will be made to the Front Door Service via the Kent Children's Services Portal.
- Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, and needs and risks cannot be safely managed through targeted or Child in Need Family Help support alone, a statutory child protection response is required. The Kent Support Levels Guidance describes this as '*Family Help – Children in need of protection (Level 4)*'.
 - Safeguarding activity at this level is led under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
 - A Request for Support is required and will be made to the Front Door Service via the Kent Children's Services Portal.
 - If a child is at immediate risk, the Request for Support will be marked as "urgent".
 - If the child is in immediate danger, emergency services will be contacted using 999.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take appropriate safeguarding action in response to concerns but will not investigate child protection concerns as a single agency or attempt to determine whether abuse, neglect or exploitation has occurred. Staff will record and report concerns in line with this policy and KSCMP procedures, and information will be shared with Children's Front Door and/or the police where appropriate, so that concerns can be considered through the appropriate multi-agency process.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children may be harmed in contexts outside the home, including within peer groups, the wider community and online. When making a Request for Support, the school will provide as much relevant information as possible so that any assessment can consider the full context of the child's lived experience and take a contextual approach to harm.
- If the school believes a child may need support but is unclear whether a Request for Support should be submitted, the DSL may seek advice through a no-name consultation with the Front Door Service before deciding next steps. A consultation will not be used where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm; in these circumstances, a Request for Support will be submitted without delay.
- The DSL will usually have responsibility for making Requests for Support and other safeguarding referrals. However, all staff are made aware of the local Kent process for making referrals to the Front Door and for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, including the role they may be expected to play in such assessments.
- If staff have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, they are expected to act on them immediately.
 - If staff are unsure whether something is a safeguarding issue, they will speak to a DSL.
 - If, in exceptional circumstances, a DSL or deputy DSL is not available, this must not delay appropriate action being taken. In these circumstances, staff should speak to a member of the school senior leadership team, seek a consultation from the Front Door Support themselves. Contact information is available in the safeguarding flowchart in the staffroom on the Safe Guarding board.
 - Any safeguarding action taken by staff must be shared with the DSL as soon as possible.
- Parents/carers will usually be spoken to where a Request for Support is being considered, and their agreement to engage will be sought where this is required and safe/appropriate to do so. This will be considered in line with KSCMP procedures and the Kent Support Levels Guidance.
 - Parent/carer agreement to engage is not required for '*Family Help – Children in need of protection (Level 4)*', where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. A Request for Support must be made in these circumstances; however, it is good practice for the school to work openly and transparently with parents/carers and inform them of the Request for Support where it is safe to do so.
 - Parents/carers will not be informed before a Request for Support is made where this may place a child at increased risk of harm, place an adult at risk of serious harm, prejudice the prevention or detection of serious crime, or undermine a criminal investigation.
- If, after a Request for Support or other external intervention, a child's situation does not appear to be improving, or there are concerns about a decision or response, staff or the DSL will consider whether to re-refer and/or follow the Kent Safeguarding Children Escalation Procedure to ensure concerns are addressed and, most importantly, that the child's situation improves.

- Any pastoral or welfare support provided by the school to children and families will be recorded and reviewed. The DSL will oversee support where families are requiring additional support, to ensure that school activity does not obscure potential safeguarding concerns from the wider professional network.

3.3 Multi-agency working

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the pivotal role education settings play in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. We are committed to working in line with the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership procedures, the Kent Support Levels Guidance and the principle of 'Right Help, Right Time, Right Professional'.
- The school leadership team, Board of Trustees and DSL(s) will work to establish effective and co-operative relationships with safeguarding partners and other local agencies. This may include Children's Front Door, social workers, Family Help practitioners, health professionals, mental health services, specialist teachers, educational psychologists, other education settings and the police.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will work with partner agencies to provide a coordinated safeguarding response which promotes children's welfare and protects them from harm. This includes contributing to relevant multi-agency plans and meetings, such as child in need meetings, child protection conferences, core groups, strategy discussions and care planning meetings.
- Where a child is supported through community-based Early Help, Family Help, child in need, child protection or care planning processes, the school will work with partner agencies to promote joined-up planning, avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure the child's educational needs, safety, voice and lived experience are considered.
- The school will allow access for Kent Children's Social Care and, where relevant, a placing local authority, so that they can conduct, or consider whether to conduct, assessments under section 17 or section 47 of the Children Act 1989.
- When making a Request for Support or contributing to statutory assessments, the school will provide relevant information about the child's presentation, attendance, progress, relationships, family circumstances, wider context and any known risks outside the home, including online, peer group or community-based concerns.
- The headteacher and DSL are aware of the requirement for children to have an Appropriate Adult where there is a need for police detention, treatment or questioning. The school will respond in line with relevant guidance and local procedures, including the school behaviour policy and or Searching, Screening and Confiscation policy.

3.4 Child Protection Records

- Incident/Welfare concerns will be reported via CPOMS. If necessary, green paper forms are available on the Safeguarding Noticeboard in the staffroom in the school or office in Little Hedgehogs Pre-School.
- Records will be completed as soon as possible after the incident/event, using the child's words and submitted via CPOMS. If a paper form has been completed it will be signed and dated by the member of staff. Child protection records will record facts and not personal opinions. A body map will be completed if visible injuries to a child have been observed.
- If there is an immediate safeguarding concern the member of staff will consult with a DSL before completing the form as reporting urgent concerns takes priority.
- If members of staff are in any doubt about recording requirements, they will discuss their concerns with the DSL.
- Our child protection records will include a clear and comprehensive summary of any concerns, details of concerns which were followed up and resolved, a note of any action taken or not taken, how any decisions were reached and any outcomes.
- Child protection records are kept confidential and stored securely. Child protection records will be kept for individual children and will be maintained separately from all other records relating to the child in the school. Child protection records are kept in accordance with data protection legislation and are retained centrally and securely by the DSL.

3.5 Transferring and receiving child protection files and safeguarding information

- All child protection records will be transferred in accordance with data protection legislation to the child's subsequent school, under confidential and separate cover as soon as possible; within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. Child protection files will be transferred securely to the new DSL, separately to the child's main file, and a confirmation of receipt will be obtained.
- In addition to transferring the child protection file, the DSL will consider whether it is appropriate to share relevant information with the DSL at the new setting in advance of the child leaving. This may include information to support the new setting to undertake an assessment of risk to others, as well as to make arrangements to safeguard the child, promote their welfare or continue appropriate support. Where there are safeguarding concerns, known risks or significant support needs, the DSL will instigate a direct conversation with the new setting to support effective information sharing and transition planning.
- Where the school receives child protection files from another setting, the DSL will ensure key staff such as the Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (Mrs Charlotte Lay) will be made aware of relevant information as required.
- Where information shared during transition indicates that a child may present a risk to others and/or may be at risk themselves, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider what safeguarding action is required before, or as soon as possible after, the child starts. This may include completing or reviewing a safeguarding risk assessment and putting in place an appropriate safety and support plan.
- Where a pupil joins the school and no child protection files are received, the DSL will proactively seek to confirm from the previous setting whether any child protections exist for the pupil, and if so, if the files have been sent.

3.6 Confidentiality and information sharing

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises our duty and powers to hold, use and share relevant information with appropriate agencies in matters relating to child protection at the earliest opportunity as per statutory guidance outlined within EYFS, KCSIE and WTSC.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has an appropriately trained Data Protection Officer (DPO) as required by the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) to ensure that our school is compliant with all matters relating to confidentiality and information sharing requirements. DPO: The Education People.
- All staff are made aware of the need to protect the privacy of the children in their care, as well the legal requirements that exist to ensure that information relating to the child is handled in a way that ensures both confidentiality and safeguarding.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure staff are aware of our confidentiality policy and will ensure there is an area where staff may talk to parents and/or carers confidentially.
 - All staff are aware they cannot promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of any form of abuse, as this may not be in the best interests of the child.
 - Staff are made aware of their professional responsibility to be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children; this may include sharing information with the DSL and with other agencies as appropriate.
- Staff will have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share and withhold personal information.
 - The Data Protection Act 2018, and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) places duties on schools and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully and to keep the information they hold safe and secure. 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.
 - All staff will be provided with training and information to ensure they understand the relevant data protection principles which allow them to share and/or withhold personal information. This is located in the Safeguarding box file in the staff room.
- Where possible and appropriate, staff will be open and transparent with children and families about what information may be shared, with whom and why. However, information may be shared without agreement where this is necessary to safeguard a child, promote a child's welfare, prevent delay or avoid increasing risk.
- The Headteacher and DSL will disclose relevant safeguarding information about a pupil with staff on a 'need to know' basis.
- Staff can access further information through the school confidentiality policy, data protection policy.

3.7 Complaints

- All members of the school community should feel able to raise or report any concerns about children's safety or potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime.
- The school has a complaints procedure available to parents and members of staff and visitors who wish to report concerns or complaints. This can be found on the school website.
- Whilst we encourage members of our community to report concerns and complaints directly to us, we recognise this may not always be possible. Children, young people, and adults who have experienced abuse at school can contact the NSPCC 'Report Abuse in Education' helpline on 0800 136 663 or via email: help@nspcc.org.uk
- Staff can also access the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline if they do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally.
 - Staff can call 0800 028 0285 (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday to Friday) or email help@nspcc.org.uk.
- The leadership team at Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take all concerns and whistleblowing reports reported to the school seriously and all complaints will be considered and responded to in line with the relevant and appropriate process.
- Anything that constitutes an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer will be dealt with in line with section 8 of this policy.

4 Specific Safeguarding Issues

Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children may be vulnerable to a wide range of safeguarding issues, both inside and outside the home, including online. Staff will maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' and will report any concerns to the DSL in line with section 3 of this policy.

Further information about specific safeguarding issues is available in Keeping Children Safe in Education.

4.1 Child-on-child abuse

- All members of staff at Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise that children can abuse other children; this is known as child-on-child abuse and may take place online, face-to-face, physically, verbally or through a combination of channels.
- Staff will maintain an attitude of "it could happen here". Even if there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse, staff will remain alert to the possibility that it may be taking place and not being reported.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School adopts a zero-tolerance approach to child-on-child abuse. We believe that abuse is abuse and it will never be tolerated or dismissed as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys"; this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, misogyny/misandry, and can create an unsafe environment for children and a culture that normalises abuse, which can prevent children from coming forward to report it.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that child-on-child abuse can take many forms, including but not limited to:
 - bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying.
 - abuse in intimate personal relationships between children, sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’.
 - physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm, including where there is an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse.
 - serious physical assault and harm, or the threat of harm with a weapon.
 - sexual violence such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault, including where there is 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-nudes (previously known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery), including where generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Upskirting (which is a criminal offence), 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.
 - Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals, which 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.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that harmful sexual behaviour exists on a continuum, from developmentally inappropriate or problematic sexual behaviour through to abusive behaviour and sexual violence.
- Concerns will be considered in context, taking account of the age and stage of development of the children involved, any power imbalance, coercion, threats, exploitation, the nature of the behaviour, the impact on those affected, and any wider safeguarding risks.
- All staff have a role to play in challenging inappropriate, harmful or abusive behaviours between children. Staff will be alert to factors which may increase risk or affect how children experience or report abuse, including age, developmental stage, sex, ability, SEND, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, power imbalance, peer group dynamics and wider contextual factors. Staff will be aware of the possibility that children may minimise, normalise or not recognise harmful behaviours, and that some behaviours may be facilitated, threatened, encouraged or shared online.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that for some (but not all) forms of child-on-child abuse, girls are more likely to be victims and boys are more likely to be perpetrators. However, all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable, will be taken seriously and will be responded to in line with this policy.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that the law is in place to protect children rather than unnecessarily criminalise them. Where relevant, this will be explained to pupils in an age and developmentally appropriate way which avoids alarming or distressing them, while making clear that harmful, abusive or non-consensual behaviour is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School want children to feel confident to report abuse, knowing that their concerns will be treated seriously and that they will be supported and kept

safe. The school will ensure reporting systems are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible. Children who report child-on-child abuse will be reassured that they are not creating a problem and will not be made to feel ashamed for sharing a concern.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that child-on-child abuse is a safeguarding issue for all children involved. We will consider the safety, welfare and support needs of the child who has experienced harm, any other affected children, and the child alleged to have caused harm.
- Any concerns or allegations relating to child-on-child abuse, whether on-site, off-site or online, will be recorded and reported to the DSL in line with this policy.
 - The DSL will consider the concern in line with relevant school policies and procedures, including behaviour, anti-bullying and child protection procedures.
 - The DSL will consider the behaviour in context, including the child's age and stage of development, any SEND or communication needs, trauma or abuse history, power imbalance, coercion, intent, frequency, escalation and the impact on others.
 - Concerns will be responded to, and where appropriate investigated under relevant school procedures, while recognising the need to engage with multi-agency processes where safeguarding or child protection concerns are identified.
 - Where concerns involve harmful sexual behaviour, sexual harassment or sexual violence, DSLs will respond in line with Part five of KCSIE.
 - Responses will always be child-centred, proportionate and based on the circumstances of the case.
- When a concern of child-on-child abuse is reported, a DSL will consider whether an immediate risk and needs assessment is required. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may include:
 - the wishes and feelings of the child who has been harmed
 - the nature of the concern or alleged incident
 - whether a crime may have been committed
 - whether harmful sexual behaviour may have been displayed
 - the ages and developmental stages of the children involved
 - any power imbalance, coercion, intimidation or exploitation
 - whether the concern appears to be a one-off incident or part of a pattern of behaviour
 - any vulnerability, SEND or additional needs affecting the children involved
 - any online elements or wider contextual factors
 - any ongoing risks to the child who has been harmed, other children, staff or the wider school community
 - whether the concern links to other safeguarding issues, such as child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, serious violence or abuse within intimate personal relationships between children.
- The risk and needs assessment, where completed, will be recorded and kept under review. Actions will be taken to protect and support all children involved and to address any wider safeguarding risks within the school environment.
- The school will take appropriate safeguarding, pastoral and/or behaviour-related action in response to child-on-child abuse. However, where the concern indicates that a child may require Family Help, statutory support or protection, a DSL will make a Request for Support via the Kent Children's Services Portal, in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance and KSCMP procedures.

- The school will normally inform parents/carers of the children involved in child-on-child abuse, unless doing so would place a child at risk of harm, place another person at risk, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, or undermine a police or statutory safeguarding response.
 - Information shared with parents/carers will be relevant to their own child and shared in line with safeguarding, confidentiality and data protection requirements. The school will not share confidential information about other children, including any safeguarding action, support or sanctions, unless there is a lawful and appropriate basis to do so.
- Child-on-child abuse is preventable. Timely, evidence-based support can be key to preventing children from going on to commit abuse or violence. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will work to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by creating a safe culture, promoting respectful relationships, providing appropriate curriculum opportunities, ensuring children know how to report concerns, and responding consistently to harmful behaviour.
- To minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will:
 - implement a robust anti-bullying policy, provide an age/ability appropriate PSHE and RSE curriculum, provide a range of reporting mechanisms, for example, talk boxes.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School want children to feel able to confidently report abuse and know their concerns will be treated seriously. All allegations of child-on-child abuse will be reported to the DSL and will be recorded, investigated, and dealt with in line with associated school policies, including child protection, anti-bullying, and behaviour. Pupils who experience abuse will be offered appropriate support, regardless of where the abuse takes place.
- Concerns about pupils/students' behaviour, including child-on-child abuse taking place offsite will be responded to as part of a partnership approach with pupils and parents/carers. Offsite behaviour concerns will be recorded and responded to in line with existing appropriate policies, for example anti-bullying, acceptable use, behaviour and child protection policies.
- Alleged victims, alleged perpetrators and any other child affected by child-on-child abuse will be supported by:
 - the school taking reports seriously, listening carefully, avoiding victim blaming, providing appropriate pastoral support, working with parents/carers, reviewing educational approaches, following procedures as identified in other policies, for example, the school anti-bullying, behaviour and child protection policy, and where necessary and appropriate, informing the police and/or ICS.

4.2 Making or sharing nudes and/or semi-nudes

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that all incidents involving the making or sharing of nudes or semi-nudes, whether consensual or non-consensual, will require a safeguarding response.
- For the purpose of this policy, nudes and semi-nudes means nude or semi-nude images, videos or livestreams of children under the age of 18. This includes imagery that is taken/created by a child, taken/created by a child and shared by another person, digitally altered, or generated using artificial intelligence (AI). Nudes and semi-nudes may be shared online, between devices, through social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, forums, livestreams or other digital routes.

- Creating, possessing or sharing nudes and semi-nudes of children under 18, including where this has happened with consent, is illegal and can present complex safeguarding issues. However, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that the law is in place to protect children rather than unnecessarily criminalise them. Responses will therefore be child-centred, proportionate and focused on safeguarding and supporting the children involved.
- All concerns must be reported to and managed by the DSL in line with this policy, the Kent and Medway Responding to Nude and Semi-Nude Image Sharing Guidance, the Kent Support Levels Guidance and the UKCIS Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' guidance.
- When made aware of concerns involving consensual or non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, staff must:
 - report the concern to the DSL immediately.
 - never view, copy, print, share, forward, store or save the imagery, or ask a child to share or download it.
 - report immediately to the DSL if imagery has been viewed inadvertently
 - not delete the imagery or ask the child to delete it.
 - not investigate images themselves or ask children involved to disclose information about the imagery, as this is the responsibility of the DSL.
 - avoid saying or doing anything which may blame or shame any child involved.
 - reassure the child that they will be supported and kept safe.
 - explain that the concern must be shared with the DSL and that confidentiality cannot be promised.
 - not share information about the incident with other staff, children, parents/carers or other families.
- When made aware of a concern involving making or sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, the DSL will hold an initial review meeting in line with the UKCIS Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' guidance to explore the context and ensure appropriate and proportionate safeguarding action is taken in the best interests of any child involved. This may include speaking with relevant staff and children, involving parents/carers where safe and appropriate, seeking advice, making a Request for Support via the Kent Children's Services Portal, and/or contacting the police where required.
- Parents/carers of children involved in making or sharing nudes or semi-nudes, will be informed at an early stage, unless there is good reason to believe that involving them would put a child at risk of harm.
- A Request for Support will be made to the Front Door Service via the Kent Children's Services Portal, and/or the police informed immediately if:
 - the incident involves an adult (over 18).
 - there is reason to believe that a child has been coerced, blackmailed, groomed or exploited.
 - there are concerns about a child's capacity to consent, including due to age, developmental stage, vulnerability or additional needs
 - the imagery involves sexual acts, violence, threats, exploitation or other high-risk features (for example, a child under the age of thirteen, or images depict sexual acts which are unusual for the child's developmental stage)
 - a child is at immediate risk of harm
 - there are wider safeguarding concerns, including links to child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour or abuse within intimate personal relationships between children.

- All decisions and action taken regarding nude or semi-nudes will be responded to and recorded in line with our child protection procedures.
- The DSL may choose to involve other agencies where there are concerns about nudes or semi-nudes at any time, including if further information is disclosed at a later date or there are additional concerns or incidents.
- If the DSL is unsure if a Request for Support is appropriate, advice will be sought from the Front Door Service.

4.3 Exploitation, including child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), county lines, serious violence and modern slavery

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), county lines, serious violence and modern slavery are safeguarding issues and may overlap. Children may also experience exploitation alongside other forms of abuse, neglect or harm. The school will therefore need to consider the full context of the child's lived experience, including risks outside the home, peer groups, community locations, transport routes and online environments.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that CSE and CCE are forms of abuse. They occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in criminal or sexual activity. This may involve an exchange for something the child needs or wants, and/or be for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator, and/or involve violence or the threat of violence.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that exploitation may be committed or facilitated by individuals, organised networks or gangs, and the child may identify as being part of the group that is exploiting them. Exploitation can affect children of any age and sex, and it is not possible for a child to consent to being exploited, abused or trafficked.
- Children may not recognise that exploitation is happening to them and may be manipulated, groomed or coerced into situations they do not fully understand. Children who are exploited may also be coerced, controlled, threatened or manipulated into activity which appears to be offending behaviour, and the school will consider whether such behaviour may be linked to exploitation before responding.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that:
 - **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** is a form of child sexual abuse. CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and may range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. CSE can affect any child who has been coerced into sexual activity, including 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to sexual activity. Some children may believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship and may not recognise that they are being exploited.
 - **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)** can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting, pickpocketing, vehicle crime, threatening or committing serious violence, or carrying weapons. Children can become trapped in criminal exploitation through threats, violence, intimidation, debt bondage, grooming or coercion, including threats towards their families. The experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be different from that of boys, and indicators may not be the same. Girls are also at risk of criminal exploitation. Both boys and girls who are criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.
 - **County lines** is a form of criminal exploitation involving gangs or organised criminal networks using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "deal line" to export illegal drugs. This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK; no specific distance of travel is required.

Children may be exploited to move, store or sell drugs or money and may be controlled through coercion, intimidation, violence, threats, debt bondage, online activity or exploitation of their family circumstances.

- **Serious violence** includes violence and exploitation involving weapons, gangs, criminal networks or serious physical harm. It can involve carrying, threatening with, or using knives or other weapons, or concerns that a child may be exposed to weapons through peers, gangs, criminal networks or community-based harm. The likelihood of involvement in serious violence may be increased by factors such as being male, having been suspended, spent time in alternative provision or been permanently excluded, having experienced child maltreatment, having been involved in offending, having used drugs or alcohol in early adolescence, or having previously been a victim or displayed violence. Serious violence can often peak in the hours just before or after school/college, including when children are travelling to and from the setting, and may be concentrated in particular places.
- **Modern slavery** includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, forced criminality, forced labour, domestic servitude and the removal of organs.
- Staff will be alert to indicators that a child may be at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation, county lines or serious violence. These may include:
 - unexplained gifts, money or new possessions
 - increased absence from school/college or regularly missing education
 - going missing from home or care, or regularly returning home late
 - changes in friendship groups or relationships with older individuals or group
 - a significant decline in educational performance
 - signs of assault, unexplained injuries, self-harm or changes in wellbeing
 - drug or alcohol misuse
 - association with others involved in exploitation, gangs or criminal networks
 - receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs or collecting money
 - being found in accommodation with which they have no connection, sometimes referred to as a trap house, cuckooing address or hotel room linked to drug activity
 - owing money or a “debt bond” to exploiters
 - having their bank account used to facilitate criminal activity
 - being vulnerable to grooming, coercion, threats, intimidation or online exploitation.
- The school will seek to understand when and where children may feel unsafe, including by listening to children, consulting staff and working with partners to understand the local context and support a coordinated safeguarding response.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children who have been exploited may need additional support to help keep them safe and engaged in education.
- If staff are concerned that a child may be at risk of, or experiencing, child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, county lines, serious violence, trafficking or modern slavery, they will report their concerns to the DSL without delay.
- The DSL will consider concerns about exploitation in line with this policy and relevant local and national guidance and make referrals or reports as appropriate.
 - The DSL will consider use of the Kent and Medway Child Exploitation Identification Tool where there are concerns that a child may be experiencing, or be vulnerable to, exploitation.
 - Where broader intelligence is known about potential exploitation or other community safety concerns, the DSL will consider whether information should be shared with Kent Police through the Community Partnership Intelligence Portal.

- Where modern slavery or trafficking is suspected, relevant safeguarding and/or child protection procedures will be followed, and the DSL will consider whether a referral through the National Referral Mechanism is required.
- Any safeguarding concerns for children will be referred to the Front Door Service and/or police as appropriate. If there is a crime in progress or immediate risk, emergency services will be contacted using 999.
- When sharing information or making a Request for Support to the Front Door Service or other appropriate agencies, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will provide as much relevant information as possible to support a contextual safeguarding response. This may include information about the child's presentation, attendance, peer relationships, online activity, family circumstances, community risks, known locations of concern, transport routes, patterns of absence, and any indicators of exploitation, trafficking, modern slavery or serious violence.

4.4 Domestic abuse

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial/economic or emotional abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour. Domestic abuse can take place inside or outside the home and within different types of relationships, including intimate partner relationships, ex-partners and family members. Types of domestic abuse can include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child-to-parent or caregiver abuse.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sex, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality, background or identity.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises children can be victims of domestic abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. Children may also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships, sometimes referred to as teenage relationship abuse. Where one or both children are under 16, this may not fall within the statutory definition of domestic abuse, but it will still be responded to as a safeguarding concern.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that domestic abuse can have a detrimental and long-term impact on children's health, wellbeing, development and ability to learn.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that domestic abuse may occur, continue or escalate following separation. Concerns will not be viewed in isolation, and the school will consider the child's lived experience, family circumstances and any wider safeguarding risks.
- Staff will respond to domestic abuse concerns in a trauma-informed way and will avoid victim-blaming language or assumptions.
- If staff are concerned that a child may be seeing, hearing or experiencing the effects of domestic abuse, or experiencing abuse within their own intimate relationship, they will report their concerns to the DSL.
- The DSL will consider concerns about domestic abuse in line with this policy, KSCMP procedures, the Kent Support Levels Guidance and any relevant local or national guidance. Where the concern indicates a need for Family Help, statutory support or protection, the DSL will consider whether a

Request for Support should be made via the Kent Children's Services Portal. If a child or adult is in immediate danger, emergency services will be contacted using 999.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School participates in Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is an information-sharing scheme between the police and education settings which supports schools/colleges to provide timely, informed support to children affected by domestic abuse. Police forces in England have a duty to notify a child's school where they have attended a domestic abuse incident and have reasonable grounds to believe a child may be a victim of domestic abuse. This includes children connected to the household regardless of whether they were present at the incident.
- Operation Encompass notifications will help the school to have up-to-date and relevant information about a child's circumstances so that appropriate support can be considered according to the child's needs. Operation Encompass does not replace statutory safeguarding procedures, and where there are concerns about a child's welfare, the DSL will consider whether a Request for Support is required in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance.
- Operation Encompass notifications will be handled confidentially, stored securely and managed in line with data protection requirements and school child protection recording procedures. The DSL will have oversight of notifications and will ensure that relevant information is shared with staff on a need-to-know basis to safeguard and support the child.
- Where the school is unsure how to respond to an Operation Encompass notification, advice may be sought from the Front Door Service or from the Operation Encompass advice and helpline service: 0204 513 9990.

4.5 Honour or Faith-Based Abuse (HBA)

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that honour or faith-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. This can include female genital mutilation, forced marriage and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. Staff will be alert to this dynamic and the additional risks it may create when deciding what safeguarding action is required.
- All forms of HBA are abuse, regardless of the motivation, and will be handled and escalated as such. If staff have any concerns that a child may be at risk of, or has experienced, honour or faith-based abuse, they will speak to the DSL without delay. The DSL will consider concerns in line with this policy, KSCMP procedures, the Kent Support Levels Guidance and any relevant national or local guidance. If there is an immediate threat or danger, the police will be contacted.
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. FGM is illegal in the UK and is a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.
 - All staff will speak to the DSL if they have any concerns that a child may be at risk of FGM or may have experienced FGM.
 - Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers, to directly report to the police where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases may face disciplinary sanctions.
 - It will be rare to see visual evidence of FGM, and staff must not examine [pupils/students]. Unless the teacher has good reason not to, they should also discuss the concern with the DSL. The mandatory reporting duty does not apply to suspected or at-risk cases where FGM has not

been discovered; in these cases, staff must follow local safeguarding procedures and speak to the DSL.

- Forced marriage is a crime.
 - A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties, and where violence, threats or another form of coercion is used. Coercion may be physical, emotional or psychological. A lack of full and free consent can also arise where a person cannot consent, for example due to learning disabilities.
 - It is also a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is to cause a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even where violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used. This applies to non-binding, unofficial “marriages” as well as legal marriages.
 - Staff will report any concerns about forced marriage to the DSL. Advice can also be sought from the Forced Marriage Unit: 020 7008 0151 or fm@fcdo.gov.uk

4.6 Preventing radicalisation

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children may be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism. Protecting children from this risk forms part of the school’s wider safeguarding approach.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School is aware of its duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism”. This is known as the Prevent duty.
- For the purposes of this policy:
 - **extremism** is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
 - **radicalisation** is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence
 - **terrorism** is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to people, causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system, where the use or threat is designed to influence the government or intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that there is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism. As with other safeguarding risks, staff will be alert to changes in behaviour, presentation, language, relationships or online activity which may indicate that they are in need of help or protection.
- Staff will use their professional judgement and act proportionately where they have concerns that a child may be susceptible to radicalisation. Any concerns will be reported to the DSL in line with this policy.
- The DSL and senior leaders will be familiar with the Prevent duty guidance and local procedures for making a Prevent referral. The school’s approach to Prevent will be considered as part of wider safeguarding arrangements and will include appropriate attention to:
 - leadership and partnership
 - staff capability, training and awareness
 - reducing permissive environments, including online environments, external speakers, visitors, use of premises and access to extremist or terrorist content.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that staff receive appropriate Prevent training so they understand the Prevent duty, can recognise concerns, know how to report them internally, and understand the local Prevent referral process.

- [Insert details of Prevent training accessed by staff and leaders, including frequency of updates and any role-specific training for the DSL, governors/proprietors, IT/filtering and monitoring leads, and staff responsible for external speakers or premises use].
 - The DSL will receive more in-depth training to enable them to support staff on Prevent matters and provide updates on relevant issues.
- Where the DSL considers that a Prevent referral may be appropriate, this will be managed in line with local Kent Prevent procedures, the Kent Support Levels Guidance and relevant national guidance. The DSL may seek advice from the Kent and Medway Prevent Team where appropriate. If there is an immediate threat to safety, emergency services will be contacted using 999.
- Prevent referrals are assessed by police and may be passed on to a multi-agency Channel panel to consider whether support is required. Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. A representative from Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School may be asked to attend a Channel panel to support assessment and planning.
- Where a child is receiving support through Prevent or Channel and moves to a new setting, the DSL will share relevant information with the DSL at the new setting in advance of the child leaving, so that support can continue when the child arrives.

4.7 Cybercrime

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. Cybercrime is broadly categorised as either **cyber-enabled** or **cyber-dependent**.
 - **Cyber-enabled crime** refers to crimes that can happen offline but are enabled at scale and speed online, such as fraud, purchasing illegal drugs online, child sexual abuse and exploitation, online harassment or other technology-assisted harm.
 - **Cyber-dependent crime** refers to crimes that can only be committed using a computer, computer network or internet-enabled device. This may include unauthorised access to computers, sometimes referred to as hacking, denial of service attacks or “booting”, and making, supplying or obtaining malware such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets or Remote Access Trojans.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children with particular skills and interests in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately become involved in cyber-dependent crime, sometimes without understanding the legal, ethical or safeguarding implications.
- If staff are concerned that a child may be at risk of becoming involved in cyber-dependent crime, they will report their concerns to the DSL. The DSL will consider the concern in line with this policy, the Kent Support Levels Guidance and any relevant local or national guidance.
- Where appropriate, the DSL may consider accessing local support and/or referring to the Cyber Choices programme.
- Cyber Choices is focused on cyber-dependent crime. Concerns about cyber-enabled crime, such as fraud, purchasing illegal drugs online, child sexual abuse and exploitation, online bullying or other online safety concerns, will be responded to in line with this policy and relevant schoolsafeguarding, behaviour, acceptable use and online safety arrangements.
- If the concern indicates that a child may require Family Help, statutory support or protection, the DSL will consider whether a Request for Support should be made via the Kent Children’s Services Portal, in line with the Kent Support Levels Guidance and KSCMP procedures. If a child is in immediate danger, emergency services will be contacted using 999.

4.8 Child abduction and community safety incidents

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a child from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members, by people known to the child, or by strangers.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School also recognises that community safety incidents in the vicinity of the school can raise safeguarding concerns for children, parents/carers and staff.
- Staff will report any concerns about child abduction or community safety incidents to the headteacher and/or DSL immediately. Where there is an immediate risk to a child, emergency services will be contacted using 999.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will support children to develop age-appropriate personal safety awareness through the curriculum and wider safeguarding education. This will focus on building children's confidence, judgement and ability to seek help, rather than simply warning them about strangers.

4.9 Children and the court system, including children affected by parental separation, court orders or family disputes

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children may be affected by the court system in different ways, including where they are required to give evidence in criminal proceedings or where they are affected by private or public family law proceedings, child arrangements or parental disputes.
- Where staff are aware that a child is involved in, or affected by, court proceedings, they will share relevant information with the DSL so that appropriate support can be considered. This may include pastoral support, adjustments within school, liaison with parents/carers where appropriate, and working with partner agencies where this is needed to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that parental separation, child arrangements and family court processes can be stressful for children and may contribute to conflict, anxiety or safeguarding concerns. The welfare and best interests of the child will remain central to the school's decision-making.
- Where parents/carers disagree about arrangements, decisions or the exercise of parental responsibility, the school will act in line with statutory guidance, relevant court orders, education law, safeguarding duties and data protection requirements. Where necessary, parents/carers may be advised to seek independent legal advice or resolve disputes through the appropriate legal route.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider any court orders or legal restrictions that are shared with the setting and relevant to the child's education, welfare or safety. Parents/carers may be asked to provide the most recent court order where this is appropriate and/or necessary to help the school understand arrangements or restrictions.
- Staff will remain alert to any safeguarding concerns arising from parental disputes, child arrangements or court proceedings. Concerns will be reported to the DSL and responded to in line with this policy.

4.10 Homelessness

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that being homeless, or being at risk of homelessness, can present a real risk to a child's welfare.
- The DSL will be aware of local contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so that concerns can be raised or progressed at the earliest opportunity. Discussion with, or referral to, the Local Housing Authority does not replace safeguarding action where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm
- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School receives information that a child has been placed in temporary accommodation, the DSL will consider what support may be required to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. This may include considering the impact on attendance, wellbeing, learning, transport, access to resources and family support needs.

4.11 Children with family members in prison or affected by parental offending

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children with family members in prison, or who are otherwise affected by parental offending, may experience additional emotional, practical and safeguarding needs. This may include stigma, isolation, poverty, poor mental health, disrupted family relationships, attendance concerns or changes in behaviour.
- Staff will share any concerns with the DSL so that appropriate support can be considered. This may include pastoral support, safe adult support, signposting to specialist services, liaison with parents/carers where appropriate, and consideration of early help or wider multi-agency support.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will respond to children affected by parental imprisonment or offending in a sensitive and trauma-informed way, recognising the potential impact on the child's safety, wellbeing, attendance, learning and relationships

4.12 Sexual violence and sexual harassment

- When responding to concerns relating to child-on-child sexual violence or harassment, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will follow the guidance outlined in Part five of KCSIE 2025.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise that sexual violence and sexual abuse can happen anywhere, and all staff will maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here.' Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children and can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally). Sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable.
- **All** victims of sexual violence or sexual harassment will be reassured that they are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward, and that they will be supported and kept safe. A victim will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment, or ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Abuse that occurs online or outside of the school will not be dismissed or downplayed and will be treated equally seriously and in line with relevant policies/procedures, for example anti-bullying, behaviour, child protection, online safety.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise that the law is in place to protect children and young people rather than criminalise them, and this will be explained in such a way to pupils that avoids alarming or distressing them.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognise that an initial disclosure to a trusted adult may only be the first incident reported, rather than representative of a singular incident and that trauma can impact memory, so children may not be able to recall all details or timeline of abuse. All staff will be aware certain children may face additional barriers to telling someone, for example because of their vulnerability, disability, sex, ethnicity, and/or sexual orientation.
- The DSL (or deputy) is likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and will be the most appropriate person to advise on the initial response.
 - The DSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment which will be considered on a case-by-case basis which explores how best to support and protect the victim and the alleged perpetrator, and any other children involved/impacted, in line with part five of KCSIE 2025 and relevant local/national guidance and support, for example [KSCMP](#) procedures and support from the [Integrated Children's Services](#)
 - The risk and needs assessment will be recorded and kept under review and will consider the victim (especially their protection and support), the alleged perpetrator, and all other children, and staff and any actions that are required to protect them.
 - Any concerns involving an online element will take place in accordance with relevant local/national guidance and advice.
- Reports will initially be managed internally by the school and where necessary will be referred to [Integrated Children's Services](#) (Early Help and/or Children's Social Work Service) and/or the police. Important considerations which may influence this decision include:
 - the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed.
 - the nature of the alleged incident(s), including whether a crime may have been committed and/or whether Harmful Sexual Behavior has been displayed.
 - the ages of the children involved.
 - the developmental stages of the children involved.
 - any power imbalance between the children.
 - if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse - sexual abuse can be accompanied by other forms of abuse and a sustained pattern may not just be of a sexual nature.
 - that sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place within intimate personal relationships between children.
 - understanding intra familial harms and any necessary support for siblings following incidents.
 - whether there are any ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students, or school staff.
 - any other related issues and wider context, including any links to child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation.
- The school will in most instances engage with both the victim's and alleged perpetrator's parents/carers when there has been a report of sexual violence; this might not be necessary or proportionate in the case of sexual harassment and will depend on a case-by-case basis. The exception to this is if there is a reason to believe informing a parent/carer will put a child at additional risk. Any information shared with parents/carers will be in line with information sharing expectations, our confidentiality policy, and any data protection requirements, and where they are involved, will be subject to discussion with other agencies (for example Children's Social Work Service and/or the police) to ensure a consistent approach is taken.

4.13 Serious violence

- All staff are aware of the indicators which may signal children are at risk from or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include unexplained gifts or new possessions, increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of CCE.
- Sheldwich Primary school and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that the likelihood of involvement in serious violence may be increased by factors such as being male, having been frequently absent or permanently excluded, having experienced child maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery. Additionally, violence can peak in the hours just before or just after school when pupils are travelling to and from school and these may be particularly risky times for children involved in serious violence.
- Any concerns regarding serious violence will be reported and responded to in line with other child protection concerns by speaking with a DSL or deputy. The initial response to child victims is important and staff will take any allegations seriously and work in ways that support children and keep them safe.

5 Supporting Children Potentially at Greater Risk of Harm

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that some children may be more vulnerable to abuse, neglect, exploitation or harm, or may face additional barriers to recognising, reporting or being supported with safeguarding concerns. Staff will be alert to the needs and experiences of these children and will ensure concerns are reported to the DSL in line with this policy.
- The school will take a child-centred, trauma-informed and contextual approach, considering the child's voice, lived experience, individual circumstances and any barriers they may face in accessing help or support.

5.1 Safeguarding children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School acknowledges that children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges and barriers for recognising abuse and neglect.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children with SEND may face additional communication barriers and experience difficulties in managing or reporting abuse or challenges. Children with SEND will be supported to communicate and ensure that their voice is heard and acted upon.
- All members of staff are encouraged to appropriately explore potential indicators of abuse such as behaviour, mood changes or injuries and not to assume that they are related to the child's special educational needs or disability.

- Members of staff are encouraged to be aware that children with SEND, or certain medical conditions, can be disproportionately impacted by safeguarding concerns or behaviour, such as exploitation, peer group isolation or bullying including prejudice-based bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- To address these additional challenges, our school will always consider implementing extra pastoral support and attention for children with SEND.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has robust intimate/personal care policies which ensure that the health, safety, independence, and welfare of children is promoted, and their dignity and privacy are respected. Arrangements for intimate and personal care are open and transparent and accompanied by robust recording systems.

5.2 Safeguarding children with medical conditions

Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children with medical conditions, including allergies, should be properly supported so they can access education safely and fully. Further information can be found in our medical conditions policy/allergy safety arrangements/individual healthcare plan procedures.

An incident relating to the management of a child's medical condition, including allergies, will not automatically require safeguarding actions. However, staff will report concerns to the DSL where an incident, pattern of incidents or wider information suggests that a child may be at increased risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation because of their medical condition. This may include, for example, where relevant information about a child's medical condition is not shared with the school, where a child is repeatedly sent to school without essential medication or equipment, or where agreed healthcare arrangements are not followed in a way that places the child at risk.

The DSL will consider concerns in line with this policy, national and local guidance and relevant school medical or allergy arrangements. Where appropriate, this may include considering whether a Request for Support should be made.

5.3 Children requiring mental health support

Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our 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.

- We recognise that mental health problems can, in some cases, develop into safeguarding concerns, including where there are concerns about self-harm, eating disorders, suicidal ideation or risk of suicide. Mental health problems can also be an indicator that a child has suffered, or is at risk of suffering, abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Only appropriately trained professionals should diagnose a mental health problem. However, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises our staff are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour, presentation or circumstances suggest that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.
 - Staff will be alert to potential warning signs that a child may be struggling with their mental health. These may include significant changes in behaviour, ongoing difficulty sleeping, withdrawing from social situations, not wanting to do things they usually enjoy, physical signs of self-harm,

- neglecting themselves, suicidal ideation, changes in attendance, engagement, relationships or emotional wellbeing.
- Not every child who displays these behaviours will have a mental health concern. However, staff will remain professionally curious and will record and report any concerns so children can receive appropriate support and early intervention.
- If staff have a concern about a child's mental health or wellbeing, they will follow the school processes for recording and reporting concerns: the flow chart can be found on the Well-being board in the staff room.
- If a mental health concern is also a safeguarding concern, staff will speak to the DSL in line with this policy. The DSL will consider whether the child may benefit from support through universal services or community-based early help, or whether a Request for Support is required.
- Where mental health support is needed, parents/carers will be informed to support the child's wellbeing, unless doing so would place the child at additional risk.
- If staff believe that a child is in immediate danger, emergency services will be contacted using 999 or arrangements will be made for the child to be taken to A&E immediately by a parent/carer or other suitable person. If a child needs urgent help for their mental health but it is not an emergency, help will be sought through NHS 111.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider the range of locally available support to meet children's mental health and wellbeing needs. This may include internal pastoral support, the senior mental health lead, Mental Health Support Teams, school nursing, early help/Family Help, NHS services, early support hubs, young futures hubs, voluntary sector support and specialist services.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that any mental health support or intervention offered is appropriate to the child's needs, age and phase of education, and is evidenced as safe and effective.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will support children's mental health and wellbeing by:
 - promoting positive mental wellbeing and resilience.
 - observing [pupils/students] and identifying early those who may be experiencing mental health problems or be at risk of developing them.
 - ensuring early targeted support is considered and provided where appropriate.
 - liaising with and/or referring to specialist services where needed.
- Age and ability appropriate education will be provided to pupils to help promote positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

Lead Members of Staff

Whilst all staff have a responsibility to promote the mental health of students, staff with a specific, relevant remit include:

- ☐ Mrs Sarah Garrett - Headteacher, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead
- ☐ Mrs Shannon Morrison – Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Lead
- ☐ Mrs Charlotte Lay – Assistant Headteacher, SENCO and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Teaching about Mental Health & Universal Support

The skills, knowledge and understanding needed by our pupils to keep themselves mentally healthy and safe are included as part of our PSHE/RSE curriculum.

The content of lessons is determined by SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and the specific needs of the cohort we're teaching. We will also use the PSHE Association Guidance to ensure that we teach mental health and emotional wellbeing issues in a safe and sensitive manner. Fantastic Friday - therapeutic activities including art, Lego, relaxation and mindfulness techniques.

Targeted Support

The school will offer support through targeted approaches for individual pupils or groups of pupils which may include:

- Circle time approaches or 'circle of friends' activities
- Targeted use of PSHE resources
- Managing feelings resources e.g. 'Talk boxes'
- Mental health and wellbeing groups, 1:1 wellbeing support
- Class teachers will make use of resources to assess and track wellbeing as appropriate including:
 - Ferre Leavers Leuven Scale (completed termly and reported to Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher during Pupil Progress Meetings)
 - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
 - The Boxall Profile

5.4 Children who are absent from education

- In line with the Working Together to Improve School Attendance and Children Missing Education statutory guidance, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues, including abuse and neglect, child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and county lines.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that a robust response to absence supports the identification of safeguarding concerns and may help prevent the risk of children becoming missing from education in the future.
- Staff will be alert to patterns of absence, persistent absence, severe absence, repeated absence, unexplained absence and children missing from education. Where absence raises a welfare or safeguarding concern, staff will report this to the DSL in line with this policy.
- The DSL will consider whether absence may be linked to wider safeguarding risks within the family or community, including abuse, neglect, exploitation, mental health concerns, domestic abuse, forced marriage, FGM, trafficking, serious violence, county lines, online harm or other extra-familial harm.
- Where possible, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will hold more than one emergency contact number for each [pupil/student], so there are additional options to contact a responsible adult where a child who is absent from education is also identified as a welfare or safeguarding concern.

- a. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will seek to hold emergency contact information for both parents where appropriate, unless doing so would place a child at risk of harm or be contrary to a court order or other legal restriction.
 - b. Where contact with a parent or other adult is restricted or unsafe, this will be clearly recorded in line with school safeguarding and record keeping procedures.
 - c. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will be proactive in understanding children's significant relationships and lived experiences, including the role of fathers, non-resident parents and other adults who may be important in the child's life, where this is appropriate and safe.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that a child may be considered missing from education at any stage where their whereabouts, education provision or safety cannot be established.
- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has concerns that a child has unexplained, persistent, repeated or prolonged absence, or may be missing from education, action will be taken in line with statutory duties and local procedures. This may include working with parents/carers, Kent PRU and Attendance Service (KPAS), the local authority CME team, the Front Door Service and/or other agencies as appropriate.
- Where there are concerns that a child may be missing from education, including where the school becomes aware that a child has moved out of area or their whereabouts are unknown, the school will make a referral to KPAS promptly so that appropriate checks can be undertaken. The school will not delay referral while completing local enquiries where this may prevent timely action by the local authority.
- Where there are concerns that a child may be missing from education or where their absence raises welfare or safeguarding concerns, the DSL will make a Request for Support as appropriate.

Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will provide information to the local authority where required when a child is removed from roll, including at standard and non-standard transition points, in line with Children missing education statutory guidance and local procedures.

- Where possible, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil, so we have additional options to contact a responsible adult if a child missing education is also identified as a welfare and/or safeguarding concern. There is an expectation that emergency contact information will be held for both parents, unless doing so would put a child at risk of harm.
- The setting will follow up on absences in a timely manner. If a child is absent for a prolonged period, or if a child is absent without notification from the parent/carer, attempts will be made to contact the child's parents and/or carers and alternative emergency contacts. The setting will consider patterns and trends in a child's absences and their personal circumstances and use professional judgement when deciding if a child's absence should be considered as prolonged. Consideration will be given to the child's vulnerability, parent/carer's vulnerability and home life.
- Where the school have concerns that a child is missing from education, we will respond in line with our statutory duties (DfE: Children missing education) and local policies. Local support is available via the PRU, Inclusion and Attendance Service (PIAS).

5.5 Children attending alternative provision

- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, the school remains responsible for the safeguarding of that child and will ensure that the placement is appropriate and meets the child's needs.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children attending alternative provision may have complex needs and may be vulnerable to additional safeguarding risks. Safeguarding arrangements will therefore be considered before, during and throughout the placement.
- Before a placement is agreed, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will obtain written confirmation from the alternative provision provider that appropriate safeguarding checks have been carried out on individuals working at the provision. This includes confirmation that the provider will inform the school of any arrangements that may affect the child's safety, including relevant staffing changes, so the school can assure itself that appropriate safeguarding checks remain in place.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will carry out appropriate due diligence and quality assurance before commissioning alternative provision and will continue to monitor whether the provision remains safe, suitable and able to meet the child's individual needs.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will always know where a child is based during school hours. This includes keeping records of the address of the alternative provision provider and any subcontracted provision or satellite sites the child may attend.
- Alternative provision placements will be reviewed regularly, at least half-termly, to provide assurance that the child is attending regularly, the placement remains safe, and the provision continues to meet the child's needs.
- Where safeguarding concerns arise, the placement will be reviewed immediately and will be suspended or ended, if necessary, unless and until concerns have been satisfactorily addressed.
- The DSL will ensure appropriate safeguarding information is shared with the alternative provision provider, in line with information sharing, confidentiality and data protection requirements, so that the child can be safeguarded and supported effectively.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will respond to any safeguarding concerns relating to a child attending alternative provision in line with this policy.

5.5 Elective Home Education (EHE)

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that many home educated children have a positive learning experience, and that parents/carers may choose elective home education with their child's best education at the heart of the decision. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School also recognises that elective home education can mean some children are not in receipt of suitable education and may become less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported.
- Where a parent/carer expresses their intention to remove a child from school with a view to educating at home, we will respond in line with [national Elective Home Education guidance](#), the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and local [Kent guidance](#).
- Where possible, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will work with the local authority, parents/carers and other key professionals to ensure that the implications of elective home education have been considered before a final decision is made and that decisions are made in the best interests of the child. This will be particularly important where the child has SEND, an Education, Health and Care plan, has or is known to partner agencies, or is otherwise vulnerable.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider local guidance and tools, including the KSCMP [EHE Leavers Checklist](#), to support proportionate safeguarding checks, information sharing and decision-making before a child is removed from roll. This will include considering the child's lived experience, any existing safeguarding or welfare concerns, parental responsibility arrangements, SEND or EHCP needs, young carer status, attendance, and whether further advice or a Request for Support is required.
- Where there are safeguarding or welfare concerns, the DSL will consider whether a Request for Support is required.

5.7 Children who need a social worker (child in need and child protection plans)

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs, including abuse, neglect, exploitation or complex family circumstances.
- The DSL will hold and use information about children who need or have a social worker so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes.
- Where a child needs or has a social worker, this will inform school decisions about safeguarding and welfare. This may include responding to unauthorised absence, children absent from or missing education, behaviour, pastoral support, academic support and any wider safeguarding risks within the family or community.
- Where appropriate, information will be shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis so that the child can be safeguarded and supported effectively.

5.8 Looked after children (including kinship care), previously looked after children and care leavers

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the common reason for children becoming looked after is as a result of abuse and/or neglect and a previously looked after child also potentially remains vulnerable.
- Where safeguarding concerns arise for children who are looked after, previously looked after, in kinship care or leaving care, the school will ensure safeguarding action is considered alongside existing care planning, education planning and support arrangements.
- The school has appointed a designated teacher: Mrs Charlotte Lay. The designated teacher will work with local authorities, including [Virtual School Kent](#), to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are looked after or who have been previously looked after, including those in [kinship care](#).
- The designated teacher will work with the DSL to ensure appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status, contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility, care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after them.
- Where a child is looked after, the DSL will hold details of the social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child.
- Where a child is leaving care, the DSL will hold details of the local authority Personal Advisor appointed to guide and support them and will liaise with them as necessary regarding any safeguarding or welfare concerns.

5.9 Young carers

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that young carers may have caring responsibilities for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health need, substance misuse issue or other care need.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will be alert to the needs of young carers, recognising that caring responsibilities can impact on a child's attendance, attainment, behaviour, emotional wellbeing, relationships and ability to participate fully in school life.
- Early identification is important to ensure young carers receive support at the right time and from the appropriate services. Staff will remain alert to indicators that a child may be a young carer, including changes in attendance, punctuality, concentration, tiredness, homework completion, emotional wellbeing, social relationships or increased responsibilities at home. If staff are concerned that a child may be a young carer, or that caring responsibilities may be affecting their safety, welfare or wellbeing, they will report this to the DSL.
- The DSL will consider what support may be required, including pastoral support within school, reasonable adjustments, support with attendance or learning, and whether advice or support should be sought from external partners, local authority services, health services or young carers services.
- Where caring responsibilities appear to be inappropriate, excessive, unsafe, or are having a significant impact on the child's welfare, the DSL will consider whether a Request for Support should be made.
- Support for young carers is currently available through:
 - [Imago Young Carers](#), who provide information, advice, signposting and support for young carers, families and professionals.

5.10 Children who are privately fostered

- [Private fostering](#) occurs when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 for children with a disability) is provided with care and accommodation by a person who is not a parent, person with parental responsibility for them or a relative in their own home. A child is not privately fostered if the person caring for and accommodating them has done so for less than 28 days and does not intend to do so for longer.
- Where private fostering arrangements come to the attention of the school, for example, through the normal course of their interaction and promotion of learning activities with children, we must notify Kent Front Door Services in line with the local [KSCMP arrangements](#) in order to allow the local authority to check the arrangement is suitable and safe for the child.

5.11 Children who are Lesbian, Gay, Bi, or Trans (LGB)

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that a child being lesbian, gay or bisexual is not in itself a risk factor for harm. However, children who are lesbian, gay or bisexual can sometimes be vulnerable to discriminatory bullying, prejudice, harassment or child-on-child abuse.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School also recognises that children who are perceived by others to be lesbian, gay or bisexual, whether they are or not, can be just as vulnerable as children who are.
- Staff will be alert to the possibility that children who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, or perceived to be, may face additional barriers to sharing concerns, particularly where they do not have a trusted adult they can speak to openly.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take steps to prevent and respond to discriminatory bullying, prejudice and harmful behaviour, including through our safeguarding, behaviour, anti-bullying, curriculum and pastoral arrangements. Where appropriate, sanctions and support will be considered in line with relevant school policies.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will provide a safe, inclusive and trusted environment where children can speak openly, share concerns and be taken seriously. Concerns will be reported to the DSL in line with this policy.
- Appropriate education will be provided through our Relationships Education/Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education curriculum to support respectful relationships, inclusion and the prevention of prejudice-based bullying.

5.12 Children who are questioning their gender

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that some children may question the way they feel about being a boy or a girl, including the physical attributes of their sex and the related ways in which they fit into society.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that children may express themselves in ways that are less typically associated with their sex, and this is not in itself a

safeguarding concern. Staff will avoid making assumptions based on appearance, behaviour, interests or presentation.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will be a respectful environment where bullying, harassment, discrimination and harmful behaviour are not tolerated. Staff will be alert to the potential vulnerabilities of children who are questioning their gender, including bullying, family difficulties, online harm, mental health concerns, psychosocial needs or wider safeguarding concerns.
- Staff will take time to listen to and understand the child's thoughts, feelings and experiences. Staff will remain professionally curious and consider the full context of the child's lived experience, including relationships with family, peers and the wider school environment.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will respond to children who are questioning their gender in line with KCSIE, ensuring that any support is considered as part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities and with the child's welfare and best interests as a central consideration. The school will take a careful, considered and recorded approach, recognising that children's individual circumstances, needs and experiences will vary.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will not make assumptions or initiate action regarding social transition. Where a child is questioning their gender, staff will respond sensitively, listen to the child's views and experiences, and consider any support needs or safeguarding concerns in line with this policy.
- Where a child speaks to a member of staff about questioning their gender but does not ask the school to make changes to how they are treated, staff will not normally break confidence unless there is a related safeguarding concern. Where a conversation raises concerns about the child's wellbeing or safety, staff will follow this policy and speak to the DSL.
- Parents/carers will usually be involved as a matter of priority where a child requests support relating to social transition. Their views will be treated with importance and properly considered. In the rare circumstances where involving parents/carers may place the child at greater risk of harm, the DSL will be involved before parents/carers are contacted or any decisions are made.
- Where a child and their parents/carers requests support or changes in relation to social transition, the school will follow an agreed decision-making process, taking account of KCSIE, safeguarding duties, equality and human rights obligations, and relevant school policies. [Include information about any relevant school/college policies and the decision-making process and how to access them. For example, contacting the headteacher/principal]
- When considering any requests for support with social transition, school will ensure our decision-making process is documented and records are kept.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will be particularly alert to the vulnerabilities of children who have socially transitioned from an early age, including where their biological sex may not be known to peers or some staff. The DSL will be involved in these cases, particularly where support, safeguarding or wellbeing concerns arise as the child approaches or experiences puberty. Any information will be handled sensitively and recorded appropriately
- Any decision-making will be child-centred and safeguarding-led. The school will consider what is in the best interests of the child, while also taking account of the safety, welfare, rights and needs of other children who may be affected. The child's voice and lived experience will always be carefully considered, however any agreed response may not always be the same as the child's wishes.
- The DSL and relevant senior leaders will be involved in considering any request for support relating to social transition. The school may also consider relevant advice from parents/carers, clinical professionals, the SENCO, mental health lead, pastoral staff or other appropriate professionals, depending on the child's circumstances.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take a careful approach when considering any request relating to social transition, recognising that such decisions may have significant implications for the child and others affected, and that arrangements may need to remain flexible and open to review.
- Any requests or issues relating to names, pronouns, uniform, toilets, changing rooms, residential accommodation, sport, trips or other school arrangements will be considered through the school's agreed process and in line with KCSIE, safeguarding duties, equality and human rights obligations, and relevant school policies.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that records are accurate and that relevant staff have the information they need to safeguard and support the child. Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis and managed in line with confidentiality, data protection and safeguarding requirements.
- The school will keep any agreed arrangements under review, recognising that a child's circumstances, wishes or needs may change over time. This includes where new safeguarding information becomes known, where a child wishes to change or reverse previous arrangements, or where arrangements may no longer be meeting the child's needs or the needs of others affected.
- If staff have any concerns about a child who is questioning their gender, including concerns about bullying, mental health, family response, online harm, self-harm, exploitation or any other safeguarding issue, they will report these to the DSL in line with this policy.
- Where a safeguarding or welfare concern is identified, the DSL will consider whether a Request for Support should be made.

6 Online Safety/Internet Safety

- It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate material or behaviours online. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will adopt a whole school approach to online safety which will empower, protect, and educate our pupils and staff in their use of technology, and establish mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure online safety is considered as a running and interrelated theme when devising and implementing our policies and procedures, and when planning our curriculum, staff training, the role and responsibilities of the DSL and parental engagement.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that online safety is an important part of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Babies and young children may access technology at home, in the community and, where relevant, within the setting, and staff have a role in supporting safe, appropriate and supervised use.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take a whole setting approach to online safety. This includes how we use devices, cameras, images, online systems, parent communication tools, internet access, screen use, staff training, staff conduct, information security and support for parents/carers.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School uses a range of technology to support children's care, learning, development, communication and administration. This may include [computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, cameras, smart devices, online learning journals,

parent communication apps, email, internet access, cloud storage, management information systems and other digital tools].

- All setting-owned devices, systems and accounts will be used in accordance with our [acceptable use, data protection, confidentiality and information security procedures], with appropriate safety and security measures in place.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School identifies that the breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into four areas of risk:
 - **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation, extremism, extreme sexual or physical violence, misinformation, disinformation, including fake news, and conspiracy theories.
 - **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users or generative AI applications that simulate this: for example, peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.
 - **Conduct:** online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm. For example, making, sending and receiving explicit images, including those generated by AI and online bullying.
 - **Commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams.
- Staff will maintain an attitude of “it could happen here” in relation to online harm. Any concerns about a child’s online safety, digital activity or technology use will be reported to the DSL in line with this policy.
- The board of trustees and leadership team will ensure that online safety is reflected within the school’s safeguarding arrangements and that appropriate systems, policies, procedures, training and monitoring are in place.

The DSL has responsibility for online safety within the school including understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place. The DSL will work with senior leaders, IT staff/providers, curriculum leads and other relevant staff to ensure online safety concerns are recognised, reported and responded to appropriately.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly. The school will carry out an annual review of our approaches to online safety, supported by an annual risk assessment, which considers and reflects the current risks our children face online.
- The headteacher will be informed of any online safety concerns by the DSL, as appropriate. The named trustee for safeguarding will report on online safety practice and incidents, including outcomes, on a regular basis to the wider governing body.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School uses a wide range of technology. This includes computers, laptops, Ipads, and other digital devices, the internet, and email systems.
- All school owned devices and systems will be used in accordance with relevant policies, including but not limited to acceptable use policies, bring your own device (BYOD) policies, mobile and smart technology policies, and with appropriate safety and security measures in place. (insert link to associated policies).

6.1 Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools can support teaching, learning, communication and administrative tasks when used safely, lawfully and appropriately. However, AI can also create safeguarding, data protection, privacy, intellectual property, academic integrity and information security risks. These include, but are not limited to:
 - exposure to inappropriate or harmful content, including bullying, harassment, abuse and exploitation
 - the creation or sharing of AI-generated or digitally manipulated images
 - privacy and data protection breaches/risks
 - intellectual property infringements
 - academic integrity challenges such as plagiarism and cheating
 - exposure to inaccurate, misleading, or biased content.
- Staff will be made aware of the benefits and risks of using generative AI tools in Staff training and pupils will be made aware of the risks and benefits of using generative AI tools in PSHE and Computing lessons.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that the use of images online, including through AI tools, can create safeguarding, privacy and data protection risks for children and staff. Images of pupils or staff must not be uploaded to, generated by, edited in, or shared through AI tools unless risk assessed and approved by the school. Any taking or publishing of images of pupils or staff will always be in line with our image use, consent, acceptable use, data protection and safeguarding arrangements.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure expectations about the safe and appropriate use of AI are set out in our acceptable use arrangements.
- [Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School](#) will respond to any misuse of AI in line with relevant policies, including but not limited to, anti-bullying, behaviour, data protection, complaints, allegations against staff and child protection.
- Concerns involving AI-generated or digitally manipulated content, including nude or semi-nude imagery, harmful impersonation, bullying, harassment, abuse or exploitation, will be reported to the DSL and responded to in line with this policy.
- Where the [school](#) believes that AI tools may have facilitated the creation of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), the [school](#) will respond in line with this policy, local safeguarding procedures, the UKCIS '[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)' and [national guidance](#) from the IWF and NCA-CEOP as appropriate.

Where the [school](#) believe that AI tools may have facilitated harassment, including the [deep fake](#) abuse of adults, advice and support will be provided to individuals affected, such as via Unions, [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) or [Report Harmful Content](#) and/or if a crime has been committed, via the [police](#). Where this involves staff, actions will be in line with the DfE [Preventing and tackling bullying and harassment of school staff](#). Action will also be taken in line with relevant school policies, including but not limited to, anti-bullying, behaviour and complaints.

6.1 Children's use of technology, screen use and online safety learning

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that young children may use digital devices and online content in different contexts, including at home, in the community and, where relevant, within the setting.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will support children to use technology safely and appropriately in ways that are suitable for their age, development, communication needs and understanding.
- Online safety learning in early years will be embedded through everyday practice, adult modelling, play, conversations, routines and supervision. This may include helping children understand safe and unsafe situations, privacy, asking for help, using devices with safe adults, and what to do if something worries or upsets them.
- Any learning about online safety will be age appropriate and will not expose children to unnecessary or frightening detail. Staff will focus on simple, positive and developmentally appropriate messages about safety, boundaries, feelings, kindness, privacy and seeking help from safe adults. Please see our curriculum policies which outline how this is achieved.
- Where technology is used with children, it will be planned, purposeful, age appropriate and supervised. It will support children's learning, development, communication or care needs and will not replace face-to-face interaction, communication, play, physical activity, rest, care routines or real-world exploration.
- Where children use setting-provided devices, apps, online resources or digital content, this will be through approved tools following appropriate risk assessment. Staff will ensure resources are purposeful, age appropriate, accessible and suitable for the child's stage of development.
- Children will not access or use internet-enabled devices alone or only with other children. Staff will supervise, monitor and support children's use of technology according to their age, development, communication needs and any additional vulnerabilities.

6.2 Mobile and Smart Technology

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the specific safeguarding, privacy and data protection risks that can be posed by mobile phones, cameras and other electronic devices with imaging, audio, video, messaging or sharing capabilities. This includes smartphones, tablets, smart watches, smart glasses, wearable technology, fitness trackers and any other devices that can connect to the internet, send or receive messages, or capture, store or share images, audio or video.
- In accordance with the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has appropriate policies and procedures for the use of mobile phones, cameras and other electronic devices within the setting. These policies explain how setting-provided and personal devices may and may not be used by staff, volunteers, visitors, parents/carers and children, where relevant. These policies are shared with and understood by all staff and can be found in the safe guarding box in the staff room.
- Images or recordings of children will only be taken, stored, used and shared in line with our Image Use Policy, consent arrangements, privacy notices and data protection procedures.
- Staff must not use personal devices to take, store or share images, audio or video of children unless this has been explicitly authorised in line with setting policy.

- Our wider approach to mobile phones, smart devices and wearable technology, including expectations for pupils/students, staff, visitors and parents/carers, is set out in our mobile phone and smart devices policy.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will operate in line with the expectation that schools are mobile phone-free environments by default. Pupils will not have access to mobile phones during the school day, including during lessons, transition times, breaktimes and lunchtimes, except where an agreed exception applies. Any exceptions will be determined by the school leadership team in line with safeguarding, behaviour, accessibility, reasonable adjustment and considerations around individual need, and will be set out in the school mobile phone and smart technology policy.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that while restrictions on mobile phone use, including operating mobile-free environments, can help to manage safeguarding risks, such measures are most effective when embedded within a wider safeguarding and behaviour framework. Clear, proportionate and consistently applied expectations, alongside education that promotes safe and respectful online behaviour, strong and supportive relationships and robust safeguarding and anti-bullying policies, are essential to support safe and appropriate use.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that safeguarding concerns involving mobile phones, smart devices and wearable technology may arise outside of school, but still affect children's safety, wellbeing, relationships, attendance or learning. Such concerns will be reported to the DSL and responded to in line with this policy.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that mobile phone and smart technology expectations do not discourage pupils from disclosing safeguarding concerns. Where a pupil needs to report messages, images, videos, posts or other content as part of reporting a concern, staff will respond in line with this policy, avoid viewing or sharing illegal or harmful content unnecessarily, and report the concern to the DSL.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School uses a wide range of technology. This includes: computers, laptops, iPads and other digital devices, the internet, intranet and email systems.
 - All school owned devices and systems will be used in accordance with our acceptable use policies and with appropriate safety and security measures in place.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the specific risks that can be posed by mobile and smart technology, including mobile/smart phones, cameras, wearable technology and any other electronic devices with imaging and/or sharing capabilities. In accordance with KCSIE and EYFS.

Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has appropriate mobile and smart technology and image use policies in place, which are shared and understood by all members of the community. These policies can be found in the Safeguarding box file in the staffroom.

- Any concern about the misuse of devices, images, recordings or technology will be reported to the DSL and responded to in line with relevant safeguarding, staff conduct, allegations and data protection procedures.

6.3 Appropriate filtering and monitoring

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will do all we reasonably can to limit children's exposure to online risks through school provided devices, systems, platforms and networks. In line with the requirements of the Prevent Duty and KCSIE, we will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
- Filtering and monitoring are part of our wider safeguarding approach and will be supported by effective supervision, staff training, clear policies, curriculum education, regular risk assessment and timely response to concerns.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the distinction between filtering and monitoring. Filtering is preventative and controls access to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content and services. Monitoring observes and reports on user activity to support safeguarding intervention where concerns are identified.
- Filtering and monitoring arrangements will be informed by the school's safeguarding risk profile. This will include the age and ability of children, children who may be at greater risk of harm, how often children access technology, the devices and systems used, remote access arrangements, any use of personal devices, and the risks identified through the Prevent duty risk assessment.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that filtering and monitoring must be effective in real-world use and not limited to traditional web browsing. The school will seek to ensure application of appropriate filtering and monitoring across websites, apps, cloud services, embedded browsers, mobile devices, remote access and generative AI tools, including any technical limitations.
- IT systems and will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School use Netsweeper Nfilter for filtering the IT system and Netsweeper OnGuard as our alert/ monitoring system.
 - If pupils discover unsuitable sites or material, they are required to turn off monitor/screen and report the concern immediately to a member of staff.
 - If staff discover unsuitable sites or material, they are required to complete Yellow Form (available in school staffroom on Safeguarding Noticeboard or the office in Little Hedgehogs Pre-School) reporting the URL of the site. The form is then handed to the DSL who in turn will contact Cantium.
 - Our leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the filtering and monitoring provisions in place, manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified.
 - All users will be informed that use of our systems can be monitored, and that monitoring will be in line with data protection, human rights, and privacy legislation.
 - Filtering breaches or concerns identified through our monitoring approaches will be recorded and reported to the DSL who will respond as appropriate.
 - Any access to material believed to be illegal will be reported immediately to the relevant agencies, such as the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) and the police.
 - When implementing appropriate filtering and monitoring, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that "over blocking" does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.
- When implementing appropriate filtering and monitoring, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that systems are configured to help protect children from illegal, inappropriate and harmful content, while avoiding unreasonable restrictions that could limit what children can be taught about online safety, safeguarding and the safe use of technology.
- Filtering and monitoring form an important part of our online safety and safeguarding responsibilities, but they are not a standalone solution. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School

recognises that we cannot rely on filtering and monitoring alone to safeguard pupils. Effective safeguarding practice, clear policies and procedures, appropriate supervision, classroom and behaviour management, staff training, and regular education about safe and responsible technology use are all essential.

- Pupils will use search tools, apps, online resources and digital platforms that are appropriate to their age, ability and needs. These will be selected by staff following an informed consideration of safeguarding, educational value, data protection and privacy requirements.
- Internet and technology use will be supervised by staff in a way that is appropriate to [pupils'](#) age, ability, needs and potential risk of harm.

6.3.1 Responsibilities

- The Board of Trustees has overall strategic responsibility for ensuring that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems and processes are in place as part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements. This includes ensuring that filtering and monitoring provision is reviewed, that roles and responsibilities are clear, and that leaders and relevant staff understand how to manage systems effectively and escalate safeguarding concerns when identified.
- Mrs Sarah Garrett, a member of the senior leadership team, has operational responsibility for filtering and monitoring and will work with Mr Andrew Woods, Trustee representative to ensure there is oversight of the school's approach to meeting the DfE [Filtering and monitoring standards](#).
- Our senior leadership team is responsible for:
 - ensuring filtering and monitoring systems are appropriate to the school context and safeguarding risk profile.
 - procuring filtering and monitoring systems.
 - documenting decisions on what is blocked or allowed and why.
 - ensuring reviews and checks are completed and recorded.
 - overseeing reports.
 - ensuring all staff understand their role, are appropriately trained, follow policies, processes and procedures and act on reports and concerns.
 - ensuring the DSL and IT service providers/staff have sufficient time and support to manage their filtering and monitoring responsibilities.
- The DSL has lead responsibility for overseeing and acting on:
 - any filtering and monitoring reports.
 - any child protection or safeguarding concerns identified.
 - checks to filtering and monitoring systems.

- The IT service providers/staff have technical responsibility for:
 - maintaining filtering and monitoring systems.
 - providing filtering and monitoring reports.
 - completing technical actions identified following any concerns or checks to systems.
 - working with the senior leadership team and DSL to procure systems, identify risks, carry out reviews and carry out checks.
- All staff will receive information about filtering and monitoring as part of induction and ongoing safeguarding training. This will include their responsibilities for reporting concerns, responding to incidents, following acceptable use expectations and escalating concerns where filtering or monitoring may not be working effectively.
- All staff, pupils and parents/carers are expected to follow this policy, the school's acceptable use policy and to report any filtering or monitoring concerns.

6.3.2 Decision making and reviewing our filtering and monitoring provision

- When procuring and/or making decisions about our filtering and monitoring provision, our senior leadership team works closely with the DSL and the IT service providers. Decisions have been recorded and informed by an approach which ensures our systems meet our school specific needs and circumstances, including but not limited to our pupil risk profile and specific technology use.
- Decisions about filtering and monitoring will be informed by the school's safeguarding risk profile. This will include consideration of:
 - the age and ability of pupils
 - children who may be at greater risk of harm
 - how often pupils access technology
 - our local context, including contextual safeguarding concerns
 - the devices, systems, platforms and networks in use
 - remote access arrangements
 - any use of Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD)
 - the school's Prevent duty risk assessment
 - emerging risks, including mobile platforms, apps, cloud services and generative AI.
- Decisions about what is blocked or allowed, and the rationale for those decisions, will be recorded. Any changes to filtering and monitoring arrangements will be assessed by staff with appropriate safeguarding, educational and technical knowledge and approved by the leadership team. Changes will be logged and recorded.
- Reviews of filtering and monitoring provision will be carried out at least once every academic year by the senior leadership team member responsible for filtering and monitoring, with support from the DSL and [IT staff/provider]. Reviews will include checks that filtering is working appropriately on all internet-connected devices in all relevant locations, and a record will be kept of these checks.
 - Reviews will consider whether filtering and monitoring remain effective across all relevant devices, systems and locations, including school-owned devices, mobile devices, apps, embedded browsers, cloud services, remote access, guest access and any permitted personal device use.

- Filtering and monitoring arrangements will be reviewed earlier than the annual review where there is a safeguarding concern, a change in technology or working practice, the introduction of new systems or devices, changes to remote access or personal device arrangements, or updates to local or national guidance.
- Insert other relevant information on how filtering and monitoring reviews are completed and recorded in your school/college.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will also undertake regular and active checks on filtering and monitoring systems to ensure they are working effectively in practice and as expected.
 - These checks will be recorded and used to provide assurance to the governing body/proprietor that filtering and monitoring arrangements remain appropriate, effective and aligned with safeguarding responsibilities.
 - Checks will be undertaken from both a safeguarding and technical perspective and will consider the school context and risk profile. This may include checking different devices, accounts, user groups, filtering policies, locations, apps, mobile devices, remote access arrangements and AI tools, where relevant.
- Our school undertakes an at least annual review of our filtering and monitoring systems to ensure we understand the changing needs and potential risks posed to our community.
- In addition, our school undertakes regular checks on our filtering and monitoring systems, which are logged and recorded, to ensure our approaches are effective and can provide assurance to the Board of Trustees that we are meeting our safeguarding obligations.
 - These checks are achieved by termly checks undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team: Mrs Sarah Garrett, Mrs Charlotte Lay and Mrs Louise Eames.
 - Checks are undertaken in a location where confidentiality can be achieved, during working hours, when pupils are not present (e.g. headteacher's office), checks are logged/recorded, any technical concerns are flagged to the IT service provider and safeguarding concerns are actioned by the DSL etc.in line with this policy.

6.3.3 Appropriate filtering

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School's education broadband connectivity is provided through Cantium via the KPSN WAN using BT, TTB and NCS infrastructure and uses Wavenet to block access to harmful content.
- Wavenet blocks school provided internet access to illegal content and activity as identified in the Online Safety Act, including:
 - Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
 - Controlling or coercive behaviour
 - Extreme sexual violence
 - Extreme pornography
 - Fraud
 - Racially or religiously aggravated public order offences
 - Inciting violence
 - Illegal immigration and people smuggling
 - Promoting or facilitating suicide
 - Intimate image abuse
 - Selling illegal drugs or weapons

- Sexual exploitation
 - Terrorism
 - Cantium is a member of [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF).
 - Smoothwall has signed up to Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit list (CTIRU)
 - Schools broadband is blocking access to illegal content including child sexual abuse material (CSAM).
 - Schools broadband blocks access to sites which could promote or include harmful and/or inappropriate behaviour or material. This includes content which promotes discrimination or extremism, drugs/substance misuse, malware/hacking, gambling, piracy and copyright theft, pro-self-harm, eating disorder and/or suicide content, pornographic content and violent material.
- We filter internet use on all school owned, or provided, internet enabled devices and networks. This is achieved by:
 - Filtering is in place for all school provided devices and access to any school systems, including any offsite access.
 - Filtering systems allow school to identify device names or IDs, IP addresses, and where possible, individual users, the time and date of attempted access and the search term or content being blocked.
 - Our filtering system is operational, up to date and is applied to all users, including guest accounts, all school owned devices and networks, and all devices using the school broadband connection.
 - We work with Cantium to ensure that our filtering policy is continually reviewed to reflect our needs and requirements.
 - If there is failure in the software or abuse of the system, for example if pupils or staff accidentally or deliberately access, witness or suspect unsuitable material has been accessed, they are required to:
 - turn off monitor/screen, report the concern immediately to a member of staff, report the URL of the site to Cantium/technical staff.
 - Filtering breaches will be reported to the DSL and technical staff and will be recorded and escalated as appropriate and in line with relevant policies, including our child protection and acceptable use policies.
 - Parents will be informed of filtering breaches involving their child, unless to do so would put a child at risk of harm or compromise a criminal investigation.
 - If staff are teaching topics which could create unusual activity on the filtering logs, or if staff perceive there to be unreasonable restrictions affecting teaching, learning or administration, they will report this to the DSL and/or leadership team.
 - Any access to material believed to indicate a risk of significant harm, or that could be illegal, will be reported as soon as it is identified to the appropriate agencies. This may include but is not limited to

the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (where there are concerns about child sexual abuse material), [Kent Police](#), [NCA-CEOP](#), the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or Front Door Service.

- If staff are teaching topics which could create unusual activity, or if staff perceive there to be unreasonable restrictions affecting teaching, learning or administration, they will report this to the DSL and/or leadership team.

6.3.4 Appropriate monitoring

- We will appropriately monitor the use of all [school](#) provided devices and networks to detect safeguarding risks in real or near-real time, including accessing or attempting to access, or engaging with or attempting to engage with illegal and/or harmful/inappropriate content or activity by any user. This is achieved by:
 - Termly checks undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team and a minimum of once a year or as required with our Cantium IT Technician.
- In accordance with our Mobile and Smart Technology Policy, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School does allow use of personal devices by staff and/or pupils. As such, we will ensure they are appropriately monitored in accordance with safeguarding and data protection legislation.
- All users will be informed that use of our devices and networks can/will be monitored and that all monitoring is in line with data protection, human rights and privacy legislation (See AUP).
- If a concern is identified via our monitoring approaches:
 - Where the concern relates to pupils, it will be reported to the DSL and will be recorded and responded to in line with relevant policies, such as child protection, acceptable use, and behaviour policies.
 - Where the concern relates to staff, it will be reported to the headteacher (or Chair of Trustees if the concern relates to the Headteacher), in line with our Whistle Blowing Policy.
 - where the concern relates to a technical issue or system limitation, it will be reported to the relevant senior leader and IT provider.
- Parents/carers will be informed of safeguarding concerns involving their child identified through our monitoring approaches, unless to do so would put a child at risk of harm or compromise a criminal investigation.
- Where our monitoring approaches detect any immediate risk of harm or illegal activity, this will be reported as soon as possible to the appropriate agencies. This may include, but is not limited to, the emergency services via 999, [Kent Police](#), [NCA-CEOP](#), LADO or Front Door Service.

6.4 Information security and access management

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that information security and access management are part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. Appropriate security measures will be in place to help protect children, staff, systems, personal information and safeguarding records.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take appropriate action to strengthen cyber security, reduce the risk of disruption, prevent data breaches and mitigate safeguarding risks, in line with the DfE [Cyber security standards for schools and colleges](#) and relevant data protection law requirements.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure expectations are in place for secure access to systems and information. This includes arrangements relating to passwords, account access, user permissions, multi-factor authentication where applicable, use of school systems, secure storage of information, reporting concerns and responding to incidents.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will review the effectiveness of information security, access management and cyber security arrangements periodically, and in response to cyber incidents, data breaches, system changes, technology developments or updates to national guidance.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School is responsible for ensuring an appropriate level of security protection procedures are in place, in order to safeguard our systems as well as staff and pupils. Further information can be found in our Acceptable Use Policy.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will review the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies.
- Mrs Sarah Garrett, Headteacher and Mr Andrew Woods, trustee, are responsible for ensuring that our school has met the DfE [cyber security standards](#) for schools and colleges.
 - Staff will report concerns about data breaches, cyber security incidents, inappropriate access to systems, lost or stolen devices, compromised accounts, phishing, malware or risks to safeguarding information in line with school procedures.
- Further information can be found in our data protection/acceptable use/cyber security/incident response policies.

6.5 Remote/Online learning

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure any remote sharing of information, communication and use of online learning tools and systems will be in line with privacy and data protection requirements and any local/national guidance.
- All communication with pupils and parents/carers will take place using school provided or approved communication channels; for example, school provided email accounts and phone numbers and/or agreed systems: Google Teams and/or Microsoft 365.
 - Any pre-existing relationships or situations which mean this cannot be complied with will be discussed with the DSL.
- Staff and pupils will engage with remote teaching and learning in line with existing behaviour principles as set out in our school behaviour policy/code of conduct and Acceptable Use Policies.
- Staff and pupils will be encouraged to report issues experienced at home when participating in remote/online learning; concerns will be responded to in line with our child protection and other relevant policies.
- When delivering remote learning, staff will follow our Remote Learning Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

6.6 Online Safety Training for Staff

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that all staff receive online safety training, which, amongst other things, will include providing them with an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and their responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring, as part of induction.
- Ongoing online safety training and updates for all staff will be integrated, aligned and considered as part of our overarching safeguarding approach. See section 7 for more information.

6.7 Staff professional practice online

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure all staff receive online safety information as part of induction and ongoing safeguarding and child protection updates. Staff will be supported to understand online safety risks for children, safe professional practice online, use of setting-approved devices and systems, image use, information security, cyber security, AI risks and how to report concerns.
 - Training will be proportionate to the setting's technology use, staff roles, children's age and development, and identified risks.
 - DSL training will include how to ensure internet safety, in line with the EYFS safeguarding training expectations.
- Staff are expected to model safe, appropriate and professional use of technology in line with the staff behaviour/code of conduct, acceptable use, mobile/electronic device, social media, data protection and confidentiality policies.
- Staff will be made aware that online safety concerns may involve children, parents/carers, staff, visitors, volunteers, online systems, images, devices, accounts, data security or professional boundaries. Any concerns will be reported to the DSL or Deputy DSL as appropriate in line with this policy.

6.8 Educating pupils

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-school will ensure that pupils receive age and ability appropriate education to help them understand online risks and how to stay safe online.
- Online safety education will support pupils to understand safe and respectful use of technology, including content, contact, conduct and commerce risks, reporting concerns and seeking help.
- Online safety will be addressed through the curriculum and wider safeguarding education, including PSHE/RSHE and other appropriate opportunities. Further information is set out in section 9 of this policy.

6.8 Working with parents/carers

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will work in partnership with parents/carers to support children's online safety. We will use appropriate communication channels to reinforce the importance of children being safe online and to share information about online risks, safe technology use, reporting routes and how parents/carers can support children at home. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will build a partnership approach to online safety and will support parents/carers to become aware and alert of the potential benefits and risks and to reinforce the importance of children being safe online by:
 - providing information on our school website and through existing communication channels (such as ParentMail, newsletters), or highlighting online safety at existing events.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure parents/carers are provided with clear information about the school's online safety arrangements. This will include, where appropriate, information about filtering and monitoring systems, what children are being asked to do online, the sites, platforms or services they may be asked to access, and who from the school, if anyone, their child may interact with online through the school website.
- Parents/carers will usually be informed and involved where online safety concerns arise involving their child, unless doing so may place a child at increased risk of harm or could undermine a police or statutory safeguarding response.
- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School becomes aware of potentially harmful online risks, challenges, hoaxes or trends, we will respond in a proportionate and safeguarding-led way. Communications with children, staff and parents/carers will aim to provide clear, helpful advice without unnecessarily amplifying harmful content or creating avoidable anxiety.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure parents and carers understand what systems are used to filter and monitor their children's online use at school, what their children are being asked to do online, including the sites they will be asked to access and who from the school (if anyone) their child is going to be interacting with online. This is achieved through acceptable use policies, school website and through existing communication channels – ParentMail and Newsletters.
- Where the School is made aware of any potentially harmful risks, challenges and/or hoaxes circulating online, national or locally, we will respond in line with the DfE '[Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes](#)' guidance to ensure we adopt a proportional and helpful response.

6.10 Reviewing online safety

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that technology, and the risks and harms related to it, evolve and change rapidly.
- The school will review its approach to online safety at least annually, supported by a risk assessment which considers and reflects the current online risks faced by pupils.
- The review will consider the effectiveness of the school's wider online safety arrangements, including policies and procedures, staff training, curriculum, pupil voice, parental engagement, incident records, filtering and monitoring assurance, mobile and smart technology, artificial intelligence, remote learning and information security.
- The Board of Trustees, leadership team and DSL will use the outcomes of online safety reviews to identify strengths, address gaps and improve the school's approach to keeping children safe online.

7 Staff Engagement and Expectations

7.1 Staff awareness, induction and training

- All members of staff will be provided with, and are required to read, part one of the current version of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.
- All staff who work directly with children will also read Annex A of KCSIE, which provides further information to support safeguarding practice.
- School leaders, including the DSL, headteacher, Board of Trustees and relevant senior leaders, will read the full version of KCSIE to ensure they understand the statutory safeguarding requirements placed on schools and colleges.
- Staff will also be directed to any additional sections of KCSIE, local procedures or school policies that are relevant to their role, responsibilities or the children they work with.
- All members of staff will confirm that they have read and understood the national guidance and safeguarding information shared with them. The list of confirmation is recorded on the Single Central Record.
- It is a requirement that all members of staff have access to this policy and confirm that they have read and understood its contents. Staff are expected to re-read this policy at least annually and following any updates, so they understand the [school/college]'s safeguarding expectations, procedures and reporting arrangements.
- All staff will be made aware of the systems within Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School which support safeguarding as part of induction. This will include, but is not limited to:
 - this child protection policy
 - the behaviour policy, including measures to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
 - the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct, including expectations regarding low-level concerns, allegations against staff, whistleblowing, acceptable use of technology, staff/pupil relationships and communication, including use of social media
 - the school safeguarding response to children who are absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions and/or for prolonged periods
 - the role and identity of the DSL and any deputy DSLs
 - how to report safeguarding concerns, including concerns about children, staff, safeguarding practice or online safety.
- All new staff, including temporary staff, agency staff, third-party staff, students on placement and volunteers, will receive safeguarding and child protection information as part of induction. This will include the setting's safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures, the role of the DSL, how to report concerns, online safety, staff behaviour expectations, whistleblowing, allegations procedures, and relevant setting-specific safeguarding arrangements.
- Induction training will ensure staff understand the school's internal safeguarding processes, how to identify and report, respond and record concerns, and how to follow Kent safeguarding procedures, including the role of the DSL and making a Request for Support to the Front Door Service where relevant. This will be achieved through Headteacher and DSL induction, staff handbook, safeguarding leaflet.

- All staff, including agency, supply and third-party staff where appropriate, will receive safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, which is updated at least annually, in line with the criteria set out in Annex C of the EYFS. This training will support staff to identify possible signs of abuse, neglect, exploitation and harm at the earliest opportunity and respond in a timely and appropriate way in line with this policy.
 - This will ensure staff are aware of a range of safeguarding issues, understand their responsibilities and know how to report concerns. This will be achieved through annual INSET, twilight training, e-learning, staff briefing or whole staff safeguarding update
 - Online safety training for staff will be integrated, aligned and considered as part of the whole school safeguarding approach, wider staff training and curriculum planning. This will include staff responsibilities in relation to online safety, acceptable use, mobile phones/smart devices, filtering and monitoring, reporting concerns and responding to online safety incidents
- In addition to safeguarding and child protection training, all staff will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates, including online safety, as required and at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. This will be achieved through staff meetings safeguarding briefings, newsletters or supervision.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the expertise staff build through safeguarding training and through managing safeguarding concerns in practice. Staff will be given opportunities to contribute to and shape school safeguarding arrangements and child protection policies. This will be achieved through staff meetings, policy feedback, audits, debriefs or learning from incidents.
- All trustees will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety, at induction. This training will support them to provide strategic challenge and assurance that safeguarding policies, procedures and practice are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole school approach to safeguarding. This training will be regularly updated. This will be achieved through annual updates, refresher training, governor safeguarding briefings, or safeguarding reports.
- When considering safeguarding training requirements, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will have regard to the Teachers' Standards, including the expectation that teachers manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe educational environment and have a clear understanding of the needs of pupils.
- The DSL and headteacher will provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees detailing safeguarding training undertaken by staff and relevant governors/proprietors/trustees. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will maintain an up-to-date record of safeguarding and child protection training.

7.2 Safer working practice

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take steps, through this policy and other relevant school policies and procedures, to promote a culture of continuous vigilance, deter and prevent abuse, and ensure that inappropriate or unsafe behaviour is challenged and responded to appropriately.
- All staff, volunteers, contractors, agency and third-party staff are expected to work within clear expectations for safe and professional conduct, as set out in the school [staff behaviour policy/code of conduct], acceptable use arrangements and other relevant policies. This includes expectations relating to professional boundaries, communication with children and families, physical contact, one-to-one working, confidentiality, information sharing, use of technology, social media, mobile and smart devices, and reporting concerns about the conduct of adults.
- Staff will be made aware of the school procedures for reporting and responding to concerns about adults working with children, including allegations, low-level concerns and whistleblowing. Concerns will be managed in line with the relevant sections of this policy and the school staff behaviour policy/code of conduct.
- Staff will be made aware of the school behaviour management and physical intervention policies. Staff will manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe educational environment and will have a clear understanding of the needs of all children. Any physical intervention and/or use of reasonable force will be in line with our agreed policy, procedures and national guidance.
- All staff will be made aware of the professional risks associated with the use of social media, personal devices and electronic communication, including email, mobile phones, messaging, texting and social networking. Staff will follow relevant policies, including the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct, acceptable use arrangements, mobile and smart technology policy, social media policy and data protection procedures.

7.3 Supervision and support

- The induction process will include familiarisation with child protection responsibilities and procedures to be followed if members of staff have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare.
- Sheldwich Primary school and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure staff receive appropriate supervision in line with the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the EYFS.
- Supervision will be a regular, planned and accountable two-way process which provides support, coaching, reflection and constructive challenge. It will help staff develop their knowledge, skills and confidence, promote children's interests, and support safe and effective safeguarding practice.
- Supervision will provide opportunities for staff to discuss children's development, wellbeing, behaviour, care needs and any safeguarding or child protection concerns. It will also enable staff to discuss concerns about professional practice, including their own practice, the setting's practice or a colleague's practice.
- The Early Years Trustee of Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that members of staff are provided with appropriate supervision in accordance with the statutory requirements as outlined in the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the EYFS.

- Supervision will support a culture of openness, mutual support, teamwork and continuous improvement, and will provide a confidential space to discuss sensitive issues, including the emotional impact of safeguarding work.
- Supervision arrangements will be clear, consistent and recorded. Little Hedgehogs will agree how supervision will take place, including the frequency, format, record-keeping arrangements, confidentiality expectations and how actions will be followed up.
- Supervision may take place through one-to-one supervision arrangements, according to staff role, need, setting context and any safeguarding concerns.
- Supervision will help ensure that:
 - staff are competent and confident in carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities
 - staff know how to identify, record and report concerns
 - staff are supported by the DSL in their safeguarding role
 - concerns about children's safety, welfare, development or wellbeing are discussed and followed up
 - staff have opportunities to reflect on practice, identify learning needs and improve over time
 - staff wellbeing and the emotional impact of safeguarding work are considered.
- Records of supervision, including agreed actions and outcomes, will be stored securely and managed in line with confidentiality, safeguarding and data protection requirements.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will review supervision arrangements at least annually, or following significant incidents or changes, to ensure they remain effective and support safeguarding practice, staff wellbeing and positive outcomes for children.
- Any member of staff affected by issues arising from concerns about a child's welfare or safety can seek support from the DSL, manager or another appropriate senior member of staff.
- The DSL or manager may signpost staff to external professional support where appropriate. Staff may also seek support from relevant professional associations, unions or other appropriate organisations.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will provide appropriate supervision, guidance and support for staff so that they are able to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.
- The school will ensure that staff are supported to understand and carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including knowing when and how to seek advice from the DSL.
- Staff will be supported by the DSL in their safeguarding role, including through advice, guidance, debriefing and opportunities to discuss concerns where appropriate.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that safeguarding work can be complex and emotionally demanding. Any member of staff affected by issues arising from concerns about children's welfare or safety can seek support from the DSL, headteacher or other appropriate senior leader.
- Where appropriate, the DSL or senior leaders may signpost staff to external sources of professional support. Staff may also seek support directly from organisations such as their union or other relevant professional support services.

8 Safer Recruitment and Allegations Against Staff

8.1 Safer recruitment and safeguarding checks

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School is committed to ensuring that we develop a safe culture and that all reasonable steps are taken to recruit, engage and deploy staff, supply teachers, trainee teachers, volunteers, contractors, agency staff and other third-party staff who are safe and suitable to work with or around children. We recognise that people working in or on behalf of the school must be suitable for their role, have the relevant qualifications, training and experience, and have completed any required safeguarding checks.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will follow Part three of Keeping Children Safe in Education and relevant guidance from the Disclosure and Barring Service when recruiting staff, supply teachers, trainee teachers, volunteers, contractors, agency staff and others who may work with or around children.
- The Board of Trustees and leadership team are responsible for ensuring that safe recruitment processes are followed in line with statutory guidance.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure safer recruitment, safeguarding checks and related decision-making are carried out fairly, proportionately and in line with safeguarding duties, equality legislation and, where applicable, the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- At least one person involved in conducting interviews will have completed safer recruitment training.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will maintain an accurate Single Central Record (SCR) in line with statutory guidance which is maintained by Mrs Cathy Crisp on her school computer in the office.
- Where required, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will complete relevant professional status, prohibition, restriction, sanction or direction checks, in line with Part three of KCSIE.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider and comply with relevant requirements relating to the Childcare Disqualification Regulations 2009 and obligations under the Childcare Act 2006, where applicable.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will determine whether roles, including volunteer roles, are regulated activity in line with KCSIE, DfE Regulated activity in relation to children: scope supporting guidance and relevant legislation. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be completed before individuals start work or volunteering, as required by statutory guidance.
- All staff working in or on behalf of the school are expected to disclose any information that may affect their suitability to work with children. This may include convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands, warnings or other relevant information and any information where their personal circumstances or associations may present a relevant safeguarding risk. This includes information arising during employment, not only at the point of recruitment. Any information shared will be considered proportionately and in line with safeguarding, HR, data protection and LADO guidance.
- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School places a pupil with an alternative provision provider, we will obtain appropriate written safeguarding assurance from the provider before the placement starts. This will include confirmation that relevant safeguarding checks have been completed for individuals working at the provision. Further information about our safeguarding responsibilities for children attending alternative provision is set out in section 5.5 of this policy.

- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School organises work experience placements, we will follow the relevant advice and guidance in Part three of KCSIE, including consideration of supervision arrangements, safeguarding responsibilities and any checks required for adults involved in the placement.
- When obtaining references, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will:
 - not accept open references, for example “to whom it may concern”
 - not rely on applicants to obtain their own references
 - ensure references are from the applicant’s current employer, training provider or education setting, and completed by a senior person with appropriate authority
 - not accept references from a family member
 - obtain verification of the applicant’s most recent relevant employment where they are not currently employed
 - seek a reference from the relevant employer from the last time the applicant worked with children, where applicable
 - ensure electronic references originate from a legitimate source
 - contact referees to clarify information where a reference is vague, unclear or incomplete
 - compare the information provided in the application with references and explore any discrepancies with the applicant
 - establish the reason for the applicant leaving their current or most recent post
 - ensure any concerns are resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will obtain appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks in line with the EYFS and statutory requirements. This includes an enhanced DBS check for relevant persons aged 16 and over, including those who work directly with children, live on premises where childcare is provided, or work on premises where childcare is provided, unless an exemption applies.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that new employees and relevant volunteers do not begin work or volunteering until required enhanced DBS and barred list checks have been received, where required by the EYFS and statutory requirements.
- Where required, barred list checks, overseas checks, right to work checks, identity checks, qualification checks and any other suitability checks will be completed in line with statutory requirements and setting procedures.
- Where an applicant has lived or worked outside the UK, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider what additional checks or evidence may be required to assess suitability.
- Where information is returned on a DBS certificate or other suitability check, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will seek appropriate advice before confirming suitability. This may include advice from HR, the LADO, legal advisers or another relevant professional. A proportionate written risk assessment will be completed to record the information considered, advice received, decision made and any control measures required.
- The [registered person/provider/manager/leadership team/management committee] will take appropriate steps to verify qualifications, including where physical evidence cannot be produced.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School is aware of the requirement to consider ongoing suitability and disqualification. All staff, volunteers, students, agency staff, third-party staff and anyone working in or on behalf of Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School are expected to disclose any information that may affect their suitability to work with children. This may include convictions, cautions, arrests, charges, court orders, reprimands, warnings, disqualification matters or other relevant information, including where their personal circumstances or associations may present a relevant safeguarding risk. This includes information arising during employment, not only at the point of recruitment. Any information shared will be considered proportionately and in line with safeguarding, HR, data protection, disqualification and LADO guidance.

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure all staff and volunteers read and understand the child protection policy and staff [behaviour policy/code of conduct] and understand that their conduct and practice must be consistent with these expectations.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will maintain accurate recruitment and vetting records. These records will include, as appropriate:
 - date of recruitment
 - identity checks
 - references obtained and checked
 - qualification checks
 - DBS check reference number, date obtained and who obtained it
 - barred list checks, where applicable
 - right to work in the UK checks
 - overseas checks, where applicable
 - disqualification and suitability checks
 - date checks were completed and any related risk assessment decisions, where applicable
 - any other relevant safer recruitment information.
- Recruitment and vetting records will be stored securely and managed in line with data protection, confidentiality and safeguarding requirements.
- When Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School is asked to provide a reference for a current or previous employee, this will be completed in a timely manner by a senior person with appropriate authority. References will be factual and will confirm whether the setting was satisfied with the person's suitability to work with children.
- References provided by Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will include relevant factual information about substantiated safeguarding concerns or allegations that meet the harm threshold.

8.2 Allegations/concerns raised in relation to staff, including supply teachers, trainee teachers, volunteers and contractors

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure there are clear processes in place to manage any safeguarding concern or allegation, no matter how small, about any adult working in or on behalf of the school. This includes staff, supply teachers, trainee teachers, volunteers, contractors, agency staff and other third-party staff or organisations working with children.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will respond to any concern or allegation about an adult working in or on behalf of the school in line with Part four of KCSIE and local Kent allegations management arrangements. This includes concerns or allegations that meet the 'harm threshold' and concerns that do not meet the harm threshold, sometimes referred to as 'low-level concerns'.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will work with relevant agencies, including the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) as appropriate. The LADO provides advice and oversight where concerns or allegations indicate that an adult working with children may have harmed a child, may pose a risk of harm to children, may have committed a criminal offence related to a child, or may not be suitable to work with children. In Kent, the LADO function is undertaken by the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS).

- Detailed information about how concerns and allegations are managed can be found in our managing allegations against staff policy/staff behaviour policy/code of conduct/low-level concerns policy.
- Concerns or allegations will be recorded and dealt with appropriately. Ensuring concerns are managed effectively protects children and also protects adults working in or on behalf of the school from potential false allegations, misunderstandings or unsafe practice going unaddressed.
- If staff have a safeguarding concern or an allegation is made that another adult working in or on behalf of the school has harmed a child, may have harmed a child, or may pose a risk of harm to children, this will be referred to the headteacher. The headteacher will consider whether an onward referral to the LADO is required.
- Where the concern or allegation is about the headteacher, or where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the headteacher this will be referred to the chair of trustees, who will contact the LADO. Where there is a conflict of interest in reporting the matter to the chair of trustees, the concern will be reported directly to the LADO.
- Where the headteacher is unsure how to respond, including where it is unclear whether a concern meets the harm threshold, advice will be sought from the LADO in line with local Kent arrangements.
- Where a concern or allegation relates to a supply teacher, trainee teacher, contractor, volunteer, agency worker or other third-party member of staff, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will liaise with the relevant employer, agency, training provider, contractor or other organisation as appropriate. The school recognises that safeguarding responsibilities are shared with the relevant third-party organisation; however, this does not remove the school's responsibility to take appropriate safeguarding action, record decisions and involve the LADO where the concern meets, or may meet, the harm threshold.
- Where the concern relates to a trainee teacher, the school will consider the concern in line with Part four of KCSIE, local Kent allegations management arrangements and any relevant partnership arrangements with the training provider. Safeguarding action will not be delayed while responsibility for employment, placement or training arrangements is clarified.
- After resolving or concluding allegations or low-level concerns about adults working in or on behalf of the school, the headteacher, and the LADO where involved, will consider whether there are lessons to be learned and whether any improvements are required to safeguarding practice, policy, training, supervision or safer working arrangements.
- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School receives an allegation relating to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using our premises for activities with children, such as community groups, sports associations or service providers, we will follow our safeguarding policies and procedures and inform the LADO as appropriate.

8.2.1 Concerns that meet the 'harm threshold'

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that it is possible for any member of staff, including volunteers, trustees, contractors, agency and third-party staff (including supply teachers) and visitors to behave in a way that indicates a person would pose a risk of harm if they continue to work in their present position, or in any capacity with children in a school or college. This includes when someone has:
 - 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
 - behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
- Allegations against staff which meet this threshold will be responded to and managed in line with part four of KCSIE. Allegations that meet the harm threshold will be referred immediately to the Headteacher who will contact the [LADO](#) to agree further action to be taken in respect of the child and staff member.
 - In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Headteacher, staff are advised that allegations should be reported to the chair of trustees who will contact the LADO.
 - If staff are concerned that appropriate safeguarding action is not being taken following an allegation against a colleague, they are advised to follow our whistleblowing process and/or to contact the LADO directly themselves.

8.2.2 Concerns that do not meet the ‘harm threshold’

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that concerns or allegations about adults working in or on behalf of the school which do not meet the harm threshold, sometimes referred to as low-level concerns, must still be shared, recorded and responded to appropriately in line with Part four of KCSIE and our staff behaviour policy/code of conduct/low-level concerns policy.
- A low-level concern does not mean that the concern is insignificant. A low-level concern is any concern, no matter how small, that an adult working in or on behalf of the school may have acted in a way that is inconsistent with expected professional standards or the school staff behaviour policy/code of conduct. This includes behaviour outside of work where this may affect the adult’s suitability to work with children, and where the concern does not meet the harm threshold or is otherwise not serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.
- Low-level concerns may arise in a number of different ways, including through suspicion, complaint, disclosure, observation, allegations made by a child, parent/carers or adult, or information arising from vetting checks.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about adults working in or on behalf of the school are shared responsibly with the right person and dealt with promptly and appropriately. This helps identify inappropriate, problematic or concerning behaviour early, minimises the risk of abuse, and supports adults to understand and maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- The headteacher will be informed of all low-level concerns and is the ultimate decision-maker in respect of the response to low-level concerns. Where low-level concerns are initially reported to the DSL or another nominated person, they will be shared with the headteacher in a timely manner.
- Staff are encouraged to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, may appear compromising to others, or where, on reflection, they believe they may have behaved in a way that falls below expected professional standards.
- Low-level concerns about supply teachers, trainee teachers, contractors, agency staff, volunteers or other third-party staff will be shared with their employer, agency, training provider or relevant organisation as appropriate, so that any potential patterns of concerning or inappropriate behaviour can be identified and appropriate action taken.

- If the school is in any doubt as to whether a concern meets the harm threshold, advice will be sought from the LADO.
- Low-level concerns will be recorded in writing. Records will include details of the concern, the context in which the concern arose, the action taken and the rationale for any decisions made. Records will be kept confidential, held securely and managed in line with data protection laws and school record retention procedures.
- Low-level concern records will be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified. Where a pattern is identified, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider appropriate action. This may include consulting with the LADO, taking advice from HR/personnel providers, reviewing safeguarding practice, providing additional training or supervision, revising relevant policies, or following disciplinary procedures.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider whether any wider cultural, supervision, training or policy issues may have enabled the behaviour to occur and will take appropriate action to reduce the risk of recurrence.

8.3 DBS referrals and suitability action

- If Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School becomes aware of information that may affect a person's suitability to work with children, including information that may lead to disqualification, we will take appropriate action to safeguard children and seek advice where required.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has a legal duty to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service where the relevant conditions are met. This includes where a person has harmed, or poses a risk of harm to, a child; there is reason to believe they have committed a relevant offence; and they have been removed from regulated activity, dismissed, redeployed away from regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left the setting. Where these circumstances arise, a referral will be made as soon as possible and in line with advice from the LADO and/or HR/personnel provider.
- A DBS referral is a separate duty from any referral to the LADO, police, children's social care or notification to Ofsted/the relevant childminder agency. Those processes will be managed in line with the appropriate setting policy, EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements, local Kent safeguarding procedures, national guidance and professional advice where required.

8.4 Notifications to Ofsted

- As a registered childcare provider, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will notify Ofsted of significant events affecting the childcare as soon as possible and always within 14 days.
- Significant events may include, but are not limited to:
 - an allegation of harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere by anyone who lives on the premises, works on the premises, or looks after children on the premises
 - the disqualification of the registered provider, an employee, or someone living on the childcare premises
 - any significant event that may affect someone's suitability to look after children or be in regular contact with children, including relevant health changes or involvement with police or social services
 - events that may affect the condition or safety of the premises, the quality of childcare offered, or lead to ongoing closure, such as fire or flooding

- the death of a child while in the setting's care
 - a child's serious accident, injury or illness while being looked after, including food poisoning affecting two or more children
 - the death of, or serious accident or injury to, anyone else on the premises, where this is required to be notified.
- Notifications will include the action taken in response to the incident, allegation, disqualification matter, suitability concern, or significant event, where this is required.
 - Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will keep a record of notifications made and any advice received.
 - Where Little Hedgehogs Pre-School is unsure whether a notification is required, advice will be sought from Ofsted, the relevant childminder agency, HR, legal advisers, or another appropriate professional.

8.5 Safe Culture, including whistleblowing

- As part of our approach to safeguarding, the school has created and embedded a culture of openness, trust and transparency in which our values and expected behaviour as set out in our staff behaviour policy/code of conduct are constantly lived, monitored and reinforced by all staff (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) and where all concerns are dealt with promptly and appropriately.
 - Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that all concerns about adults working in or on behalf of the school are taken seriously, shared responsibly, recorded and dealt with promptly and appropriately. This includes concerns that meet, or may meet, the harm threshold and concerns that do not meet the harm threshold.
- Staff are encouraged and should feel confident to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted, might appear compromising to others, or where, on reflection, they believe they may have behaved in a way that falls below expected professional standards.
- All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice, inappropriate behaviour, or potential failures in the school's safeguarding arrangements. The leadership team at Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will take all concerns or allegations seriously.
- All staff will be made aware of the school whistleblowing procedure: [insert link/location]. It is a disciplinary matter not to report concerns about the conduct of a colleague or other adult working with children where this could place a child at risk.
- Staff can access the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line if they do not feel able to raise concerns about child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 or email help@nspcc.org.uk. The NSPCC states that its Whistleblowing Advice Line supports people who are worried about how child protection issues are handled in their workplace.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where a person has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or where there is reason to believe they have committed one of the relevant offences and they have been removed from working in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left.
- Where these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff, volunteer or other adult working in or on behalf of Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School, a DBS referral will

be made as soon as possible after resignation or removal, in accordance with statutory guidance and advice from the LADO and/or HR/personnel provider.

- Where a case involving concerns or allegations about an adult working in or on behalf of Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has been concluded, the school will consider whether there are lessons to be learned and whether improvements are required to safeguarding practice, safer working arrangements, staff training, supervision, policy or culture.

9 Opportunities to Teach Safeguarding

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure that pupils are taught about how to keep themselves and others safe, including online, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Relevant issues will be covered through [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education, tutorials, pastoral provision, curriculum opportunities and wider safeguarding education] as appropriate to phase, age and statutory requirements.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that we play an essential role in helping children to understand what safe and appropriate behaviour looks like, including in relationships with other children and adults. Our curriculum and wider safeguarding education will support pupils to recognise when they or others may not be safe, and how to seek advice, help and support.
- Our curriculum provides opportunities to develop self-awareness, self-esteem, social and emotional understanding, assertiveness, decision-making and help-seeking skills, so that [pupils/students] have a range of age-appropriate strategies to support their own safety and the safety of others.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the crucial role we have to play in preventative education. Preventative education is most effective as part of a whole school approach which prepares pupils for life in modern Britain and creates a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, racism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobia, sexual violence, sexual harassment, derogatory behaviour and other forms of physical violence or conflict.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School has a clear set of values and standards which are upheld and demonstrated throughout all aspects of school life. These are underpinned by our behaviour policy, pastoral support arrangements and a planned programme of evidence-based [Relationships Education/Relationships and Sex Education/Health Education or equivalent] safeguarding education. This programme is delivered through regularly timetabled opportunities and reinforced through the wider curriculum and school life.
- Our programme will be fully inclusive and age and stage of development appropriate. Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that a one-size-fits-all approach will not be appropriate for all children, and that some pupils may need a more personalised or contextualised approach. This may include children who are victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation, children with SEND, children with a social worker, children who are care experienced, young carers and children who may be more vulnerable to online harm or child-on-child abuse.
- Through the curriculum and wider safeguarding education, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will support pupils to learn about relevant safeguarding themes in an age and ability appropriate way. This may include [positive relationships and the skills that support them,

healthy and respectful relationships, boundaries, consent and kindness in relationships, stereotyping, prejudice and equality, body confidence and self-esteem.

- Online safety will be addressed through the curriculum and safeguarding education approaches. This will support pupils to understand content, contact, conduct and commerce risks, safe and respectful use of technology, privacy, reporting concerns and where to get help. Further information about the school's wider online safety approach is set out in section 6 of this policy.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School systems will support children to speak to a range of trusted staff. All children will be listened to and heard, and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises the value of external organisations and speakers in enriching safeguarding education. External organisations and speakers will be assessed before they are given access to pupils. This may include considering the educational value of the input, the age and ability appropriateness of content, alignment with school values and curriculum aims, any safeguarding considerations, and whether relevant checks or supervision arrangements are required.

When using external visitors or resources, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will remain responsible for ensuring that safeguarding education is accurate, appropriate, inclusive and delivered in a way that supports children's safety and wellbeing.

10 Physical Safety

10.1 Restrictive Interventions, including the Use of 'reasonable force'

- There may be circumstances when it is necessary for school staff to use restrictive interventions to safeguard children, staff or others from harm. This approach is informed by the DfE guidance Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force in schools.
- 'Restrictive interventions' is an umbrella term that refers to any action, planned or reactive, that limits a pupil's movement, liberty or freedom. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - the use of reasonable force.
 - physical restraint.
 - non force restrictive practices.
 - seclusion, where a pupil is prevented from leaving a space for safety reasons.
- The school is committed to minimising the need for restrictive interventions through positive behaviour support, early intervention and de-escalation strategies.
- Restrictive interventions will only be used when necessary, never as a punishment, and only where there is a real risk of harm.
- Any use of reasonable force will be lawful, necessary and proportionate. It will involve no more force than is necessary, will be used for the shortest possible time, and will depend on the individual circumstances.
- Particular care will be taken when supporting pupils with SEND or other vulnerabilities, recognising that these pupils may be disproportionately affected. Reasonable adjustments and preventative approaches will be considered where appropriate.

- In line with the DfE statutory guidance, all significant incidents involving restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, restraint or seclusion, will be recorded in writing as soon as practicable and reported to parents/carers as soon as practicable, unless doing so would place a child at risk of harm or compromise a safeguarding or criminal investigation.
- Records will be reviewed by school leaders and governors to support safeguarding oversight, identify patterns, consider any disproportionate impact and inform staff training, support and policy development.
- Further detail regarding behaviour management, de-escalation strategies, staff training and physical intervention can be found in the Behaviour Policy, SEND Policy / SEND Information Report and Staff Behaviour/Code of Conduct.

10.2 Safeguarding in physical spaces, sport and residential arrangements

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School recognises that safeguarding children includes ensuring that physical spaces, activities and accommodation arrangements are safe, appropriate and protect children's privacy, dignity and wellbeing.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will consider its safeguarding duties alongside its obligations under equality and human rights legislation when making decisions about toilets, changing rooms, showers, sport, physical education, residential accommodation, educational visits and other physical arrangements.
- Toilets, changing rooms, showers and other intimate or private spaces will be managed in line with KCSIE, relevant premises requirements, safeguarding duties and the school's local arrangements. The school will ensure that arrangements do not compromise the safety, comfort, privacy or dignity of any child.
- Where a child requires an alternative arrangement in relation to toilets, changing rooms, showers, sport, residential accommodation or similar provision, the school will consider this through a careful, recorded and safeguarding-led process. This will include consideration of the child's needs and wishes, the safety and welfare of other children, relevant legal duties, practical arrangements and any relevant guidance. Where the request relates to a child who is questioning their gender, this will be considered in line with section 5.12 of this policy.
- Sport, PE and other physical activities will be organised with due regard to children's safety, fairness, supervision, privacy and individual needs. Where activities are organised by sex for reasons of safety, fairness or safeguarding, arrangements will be made in line with KCSIE, the Equality Act and relevant school policies.
- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School arranges overnight visits, trips, camps, boarding, residential accommodation or similar activities, sleeping and accommodation arrangements will be risk assessed and planned to safeguard all children. This will include consideration of supervision, privacy, dignity, individual needs, SEND, medical needs, relationships between children, child-on-child abuse risks and any additional vulnerabilities.

- Any decisions or individual arrangements made under this section will be recorded, reviewed as appropriate and shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis, in line with safeguarding, confidentiality and data protection requirements.

10.3 The use of premises by other organisations

- Where school facilities or premises are rented or hired out to organisations or individuals, for example to community groups, sports associations, and service providers to run community or extra-curricular activities, we will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to keep children safe.
- Where those services or activities are provided under the direct supervision or management of our school staff, our existing child protection and safeguarding arrangements, including this policy, will apply.
- Where services or activities are provided separately by another organisation using the school facilities or premises, the headteacher and board of trustees will seek assurance that the provider has appropriate safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures in place. This may include inspecting policies and procedures as needed.
- The headteacher and board of trustees will ensure that arrangements are in place for the provider to liaise with the school on safeguarding matters where appropriate.
- If appropriate safeguarding assurance is not achieved, an application to use the premises will be refused.
- Safeguarding requirements will be included in any transfer of control agreement, such as a lease or hire agreement, as a condition of use and occupation of the premises.
- Failure to comply with safeguarding requirements may lead to termination of the agreement.
- Where Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School receives an allegation relating to an incident that happened when an individual or organisation was using our premises for activities with children, we will follow our safeguarding policies and procedures and inform the LADO as appropriate.

10.4 Site security, premises and general safety

- The following section should be read in conjunction with the following policies:
 - arrivals, departures, collection and uncollected child procedures
 - emergency procedures, including evacuation and lockdown
 - first aid, accident, injury, illness and medication procedures
 - health and safety
 - food, drink, allergies and safer eating
 - sleep and rest
 - toileting, intimate hygiene and personal care
 - outings and risk assessments
 - ratios and supervision found in the Pre-School Staffing Policy
 - visitors and site security

- Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure staffing arrangements meet the needs of children and support their safety, supervision, care and wellbeing in line with EYFS requirements and setting policies.
- All staff have a responsibility to maintain awareness of buildings, grounds, outdoor areas, equipment and site security, and to report any concerns without delay this is achieved through daily risk assessments.
- Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure children are only released into the care of individuals who have been agreed or authorised by parents/carers. This is managed by: collection passwords, written permissions, emergency contact procedures.
- Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and are kept safe during arrivals, departures, transitions, outdoor play and outings. This is managed by: secure doors/gates, staff positioning, registers, risk assessments.
- Reasonable steps will be taken to prevent unauthorised people entering the premises. Visitors will be managed in line with our visitors' procedures, including signing in/out, being identifiable while on site, and being supervised where appropriate.
- Any person who is not known or identifiable on site should be challenged by staff in line with setting procedures. Amend as appropriate to reflect the setting's expectations.
- The setting will not accept behaviour from any individual, including parents/carers or visitors, that threatens the safety or security of children, staff or others. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in action being taken, including refusing access to the premises where appropriate.
- At least one person with a current paediatric first aid certificate will be on the premises and available when children are present, and will accompany children on outings, in line with EYFS requirements and setting procedures.
- Accidents, injuries, illness, significant incidents and any first aid administered will be recorded and shared with parents/carers in line with setting procedures. Where an incident may require notification to Ofsted the local authority or another agency, this will be considered in line with section 8.4.

10.5 Toileting, intimate hygiene and personal care

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-school will ensure children's privacy, dignity, safety and individual needs are considered during toileting, nappy changing, intimate hygiene and personal care.
- Personal and intimate care will be provided in line with the setting's personal care/intimate care/toileting/nappy changing procedures:
- Staff will balance privacy and dignity with appropriate supervision, safeguarding and support needs. Arrangements will take account of children's age, development, SEND, communication needs, medical needs and any agreed care plans.
- Any concerns identified during toileting, changing or intimate care, including marks, injuries, comments, distress, changes in presentation or concerns about a child's care, will be reported to the DSL in line with this policy.

- All members of staff have a responsibility for maintaining awareness of buildings and grounds security and for reporting concerns that may come to light.
 - Staff will ensure gates are closed
 - Staff will ensure door codes are not shared
 - Staff will wear lanyards
- Appropriate checks will be undertaken in respect of visitors and volunteers coming into school as outlined within national guidance. Visitors will be expected to sign in and out via the office visitors log and to display a visitor's badge whilst on site.
- For visitors attending in a professional capacity from partner agencies, such as social workers, Family Help practitioners, health professionals, police officers or other professionals, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will check their identity and purpose for visiting. The school will not routinely require these professionals to provide evidence of an individual DBS certificate before accessing children, as appropriate safeguarding checks are expected to have been undertaken by their employer. Where there are any concerns about identity, purpose, professional status or suitability, these will be clarified with the professional's employer or relevant agency before access is agreed, unless doing so would delay an urgent safeguarding response.
- For visitors attending in a professional capacity from partner agencies, such as social workers, Family Help practitioners, health professionals, police officers or other professionals, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will check their identity and purpose for visiting. The school will not routinely require these professionals to provide evidence of an individual DBS certificate before accessing children, as appropriate safeguarding checks are expected to have been undertaken by their employer. Where there are any concerns about identity, purpose, professional status or suitability, these will be clarified with the professional's employer or relevant agency before access is agreed, unless doing so would delay an urgent safeguarding response.
- Any individual who is not known or identifiable on site should be challenged by staff for clarification and reassurance. Children will be encouraged to report any concerns about unknown or unidentified adults to a member of staff.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School will not accept the behaviour of any individual, including parents/carers, visitors or members of the public, that threatens site security or causes children, staff or others to feel unsafe. Such behaviour will be treated as a serious concern and may result in a decision to refuse access to the school site.
- Any site security concern which may indicate a safeguarding risk will be reported to the DSL and responded to in line with this policy.
- In accordance with our health and safety policies, at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate will always be on the premises and available when children are present and will always accompany Pre-School children on outings.
 - The setting will ensure the PFA training accessed by staff is provided by a competent training provider.
 - Suitable students on long term placements and volunteers (aged 17 or over) and staff working as apprentices in early education (aged 16 or over) may be included in the ratios at the level below their level of study, if our setting is satisfied that they are competent and responsible and if they hold a valid and current PFA qualification.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs will ensure that children's privacy is considered and balanced with safeguarding and support needs when changing nappies and toileting

10.6 Safer eating

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs will prepare and manage food and drink in a way that helps reduce the risk of choking, allergic reaction or other harm.
- Before a child is admitted to the setting, we will obtain information about any special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies, intolerances and special health requirements.
- Information about children's dietary needs, allergies, intolerances and health requirements will be shared with staff who need to know, including staff involved in preparing, handling, serving or supervising food.
- At each meal and snack time, there will be clear arrangements for checking that food and drink provided meets the requirements of each child. This will include consideration of allergies, intolerances, choking risk, cultural or religious requirements, and any health or care plans.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs will have ongoing discussions with parents/carers, and where appropriate health professionals, to develop and review allergy action plans or individual arrangements for children with known allergies, intolerances or health needs.
- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs will have ongoing discussions with parents/carers about the stage their child is at with introducing solid foods, including the textures and foods the child is familiar with. Assumptions will not be made based on age alone.
- Food will be prepared and presented in a way that is suitable for each child's individual developmental needs. Staff will work with parents/carers to support children to move on to the next stage at a pace that is right for the child.
- Babies and young children will be seated safely in a highchair or appropriately sized low chair while eating.
- Where possible, children will eat in a designated space where distractions are minimised.
- Children will always be within sight and hearing of a member of staff while eating. Choking can be silent, so staff must remain alert and attentive.
- Where possible, staff will sit facing children while they eat so they can monitor eating, reduce choking risk, prevent food sharing and respond to unexpected allergic reactions.
- There will always be a member of staff with a valid paediatric first aid certificate available when children are eating.
- When a child experiences a choking incident that requires intervention, Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs will record details of where and how the child choked and will inform parents/carers.
- Choking incidents, allergic reactions or other food-related incidents will be reviewed to identify any patterns, learning or actions needed to reduce future risk.

10.7 Safer sleep

- Little Hedgehogs will ensure children are placed down to sleep safely and are checked regularly while sleeping, in line with the EYFS safer sleep requirements and our [sleep/rest policy and daily risk assessment.
- Sleep and rest arrangements will be suitable for children's age, development, individual needs and any information in conversation with parents/carers or health professionals.
- Staff involved in sleep and rest arrangements will be made aware of [NHS safer sleep advice](#) (Lullaby trust) and the setting's sleep/rest policy and safer sleep procedures as part of induction, training and ongoing supervision.
- Staff will be follow guidance written in Little Hedgehogs Rest and Sleep Policy.
- All children will be frequently checked when sleeping and will always be within sight and hearing of staff.
- Sleep checks will be recorded in line with setting procedures. Any concerns about a child's breathing, colour, temperature, position, presentation or wellbeing while sleeping will be responded to immediately and recorded.

10.8 Outings and off-site visits

- Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs will ensure children are kept safe during outings, visits and off-site activities.
- Outings will be planned and risk assessed in advance, taking account of children's age, development, SEND, medical needs, supervision, staff ratios, transport, emergency arrangements, toileting, food, allergies, medication and communication with parents/carers.
- A member of staff with a valid paediatric first aid certificate will accompany children on outings.
- Staff will ensure children remain supervised and accounted for during outings, transitions, transport and return to the setting.
- Any safeguarding, accident, illness, injury, missing child, behaviour, medical or other concern arising during an outing will be responded to in line with this policy and relevant setting procedure

11 . Local Support

- All members of staff in Sheldwich Primary School and Little Hedgehogs Pre-School are made aware of local support available.
- **Kent Family Help**
 - Kent Support level guidance: www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/kent-support-levels-guidance
 - Make a Request for Support to the Front Door Service via [Kent Integrated Children's Services Portal](#) – select 'urgent' if there is an immediate risk/concern
 - Front Door Service Consultation: 03000 411111
 - Out of Hours Number: 03000 419191
- **Community Based Early Help and Family Hubs**
 - [Early Help and Preventative Services - KELSI](#)
 - [Early Help contacts - KELSI](#)
 - [Kent Family Hubs - Kent County Council](#)
- **Kent Police**
 - [NPCC When to call the police - guidance for schools and colleges](#)
 - [Home | Kent Police](#)
 - Telephone 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm
- **Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP)**
 - www.kscmp.org.uk
 - 03000 421126 or kscmp@kent.gov.uk
- **Adult Safeguarding**
 - Adult Social Care via 03000 41 61 61 (text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61) or email [Adult Social Care](mailto:Adult.Social.Care@kent.gov.uk) via 03000 41 61 61 (text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61) or email social.services@kent.gov.uk
 - Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board: [Kent & Medway SAB website](#)
- **Kent LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS)**
 - [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\) - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership](#)
 - To refer to the LADO, complete a referral on the [Kent Integrated Children's Services Portal](#).
 - To enquire if a LADO referral should be made, please use the [LESAS enquiry form](#).
 - For strategic education safeguarding or online safety advice, or to enquire about LESAS commissioned services/support, please use the [LESAS enquiry form](#).

Appendix 1: Categories of Abuse

All 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.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others. Abuse can be carried out both on and offline and can be perpetrated by men, women, and other children. Children may also cause harm to other family members, often referred to as child to parent or care giver abuse.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving 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 penetration with an object) 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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education and all staff should be aware of it and of the [\[school/college\]](#)'s policy and procedures for dealing with it.

Signs that may indicate Sexual Abuse

- Sudden changes in behaviour and/or education performance.
- Depression/withdrawal.
- Regression to younger behaviour.
- Sexualised behaviour or displays of affection which are sexual and age inappropriate.
- Self-harm, self-mutilation, attempts at suicide
- Fire setting.
- Alluding to secrets which they cannot reveal, secrecy relating to use of technology, or unexplained gifts or money.
- Clinginess and/or need for constant reassurance
- Distrust of familiar adults or anxiety about being left with specific people.
- Fear of undressing, for example for PE.
- Sexually transmitted infection or pregnancy.

The [Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse](#) provides resources to help education professionals identify and respond to concerns of child sexual abuse and abusive behaviours.

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.

Signs that may indicate physical abuse

- Bruises, abrasions or injuries around the face, mouth, cheeks or soft areas of the body.
- Bi-lateral injuries, fingertip bruising, bite marks, strap marks, welts or injuries suggesting beatings.
- Burns or scalds, including unusual patterns, spread of injuries or deep contact burns such as cigarette burns.
- Injuries that cannot be accounted for, or explanations which are inadequate, inconsistent, excessively plausible, or where there is a delay in seeking treatment.
- Covering arms and legs even when hot.
- Inappropriate or harmful medication use.
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts.

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 verbal abuse, such as persistent criticism, belittling, or name-calling, as well as 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 from 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.

Signs that MAY INDICATE emotional abuse

- Overreaction to mistakes.
- Lack of self-confidence or self-esteem.
- Excessive need for approval, attention and affection.
- Sudden speech disorders.
- Unwillingness or inability to play.
- Extremes of passivity and/or aggression.
- Self-harm, eating disorders.
- Fear of parents being contacted.
- Compulsive stealing or drug, alcohol or solvent misuse.
- Secrecy relating to use of technology.

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.

Signs that MAY INDICATE neglect.

- Constant hunger.
- Poor personal hygiene
- Constant tiredness
- Inadequate clothing.

- Frequent lateness, non-attendance or running away.
- Untreated medical problems.
- Loss of weight/being constantly underweight.
- Poor relationships with peers, low self-esteem or withdrawn presentation.
- Compulsive stealing and/or scavenging.
- Rocking, hair twisting or thumb sucking.

Appendix 2: Support Organisations

KSCMP

- Worried about a child: www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/worried-about-a-child
- Factsheets: www.kscmp.org.uk/training/factsheets
- Supporting resources: www.kscmp.org.uk/training/training-resources
- Video explainers: www.kscmp.org.uk/training/video-explainers
- Missing children: www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/missing-children

NSPCC ‘Report Abuse in Education’ Helpline

- [0800 136 663](tel:0800136663) or help@nspcc.org.uk

National Organisations

- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Barnardo’s: www.barnardos.org.uk
- Action for Children: www.actionforchildren.org.uk
- Children’s Society: www.childrenssociety.org.uk
- Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse: www.csacentre.org.uk

Support for Staff

- Education Support Partnership: www.educationsupportpartnership.org.uk
- Professional Online Safety Helpline: www.saferinternet.org.uk/helpline
- NSPCC Whistleblowing helpline: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/whistleblowing-advice-line
- Shout: www.giveusashout.org

Support for pupils/students

- ChildLine: www.childline.org.uk
- Papyrus: www.papyrus-uk.org
- The Mix: www.themix.org.uk
- Fearless: www.fearless.org
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Lucy Faithfull Foundation ‘Shore Space’: <https://shorespace.org.uk>

Support for Adults

- KCC Adult Safeguarding: www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/adult-social-care/adult-safeguarding
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board: <https://kmsab.org.uk/>
- Crime Stoppers: www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- The Samaritans: www.samaritans.org
- NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood): www.napac.org.uk
- Report Fraud: www.reportfraud.police.uk
- Shout: www.giveusashout.org

Support for Special Education Needs and Disabilities

- Respond: www.respond.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk

- Council for Disabled Children: <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk>
- Kent Autistic Trust: www.kentautistictrust.org
- AFASIC: www.afasic.org.uk
- National Autistic Society: www.autism.org.uk
- Kent County Council: www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/support-for-parents-with-send-children
- Information Advice and Support Kent (IASK): www.iask.org.uk

Kent Resilience Hub

- <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk>

Children with Family Members in Prison

- National information Centre on Children of Offenders (NICCO): www.nicco.org.uk
- Prisoners' Families Helpline - <https://www.prisonersfamilies.org>

Substance Misuse

- We are with you: www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/kent-for-young-people
- Talk to Frank: www.talktofrank.com

Domestic Abuse

- KSCMP: www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse
- Domestic abuse services: www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk
- Refuge: www.refuge.org.uk
- Women's Aid: www.womensaid.org.uk
- Men's Advice Line: www.mensadvice.org.uk
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk
- Respect Phoneline: <https://respectphoneline.org.uk>

Exploitation, violence and modern slavery and trafficking

- KSCMP: www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/exploitation
- Kent & Medway Violence Reduction Unit: <https://kentandmedwayvru.co.uk/>
- NWG Network: www.nwgnetwork.org
- County Lines Toolkit for Professionals: www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/county-lines-toolkit
- The Children's Society: www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/preventing-child-sexual-exploitation
- Report modern slavery: www.modernslavery.gov.uk
- Unseen: www.unseenuk.org

Honour Based Abuse

- Karma Nirvana: <https://karmanirvana.org.uk>
- [FGM Factsheet](#)
- Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information: www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information
- Forced Marriage Unit: www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage
- The right to choose - government guidance on forced marriage: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-right-to-choose-government-guidance-on-forced-marriage

Radicalisation and hate

- Kent and Medway Prevent Team: www.kelsi.org.uk/child-protection-and-safeguarding/The-Prevent-Duty-In-Education
- Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com
- Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit: www.gov.uk/report-terrorism
- True Vision: www.report-it.org.uk

Child-on-child abuse, including harassment and violence

- NSPCC Problematic and harmful sexual behaviour: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/harmful-sexual-behaviour>
- Rape Crisis: <https://rapecrisis.org.uk>
- Lucy Faithfull Foundation: www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk/advice/creating-safer-places/help-and-advice-for-schools
- Stop it Now! www.stopitnow.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Diana Award: www.antibullyingpro.com
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- Centre of expertise on Child Sexual Abuse: www.csacentre.org.uk
- Lucy Faithfull Foundation 'Shore Space': <https://shorespace.org.uk/>

Online Safety

- NCA-CEOP: www.ceop.police.uk and www.ceopeducation.co.uk
- Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): www.iwf.org.uk
- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- Report Harmful Content: <https://reporthearmfulcontent.com>
- Marie Collins Foundation: www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk
- Internet Matters: www.internetmatters.org
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety
- Get Safe Online: www.getsafeonline.org
- Cyber Choices: <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/cyber-crime/cyberchoices>
- National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC): www.ncsc.gov.uk
- Gov.UK: <https://kidsonline-safety.campaign.gov.uk/>
- Molly Rose Foundation: <https://mollyrosefoundation.org>

Mental Health

- KSCMP: www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/children-and-young-peoples-mental-health
- KSCMP: [Navigate Wellbeing: Mental Health Signposting for Education Settings](#)
- Kooth: www.kooth.com
- Kent & Medway Children & Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS): www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-kent-children-young-peoples-mental-health/
- Mind: www.mind.org.uk
- Moodspark: <https://moodspark.org.uk>
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- We are with you: www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/kent-for-young-people/
- Anna Freud: www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/
- MindEd: <https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/>
- Kent Therapeutic Alliance and Therapeutic Support Service (KTATSS): <https://ktatss.co.uk>