

THE ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS, LONDON DAY SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Everyone employed by the Arts Educational Schools, London has a responsibility for safeguarding children. Increasingly, schools are expected to work with, support and sometimes lead different agencies to enable the most appropriate form of intervention to take place. This policy aims to outline the role that the school will have, the procedures that staff should follow, and guidance on issues related to child protection generally. However, it is not exhaustive. All staff should, as a rule of thumb, keep the needs and safety of the child at the centre of any decision they make. Our policy applies to all staff, Trustees and pupils at the Arts Educational Schools.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing the impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Keeping children safe in education (September 2018)

Foreword

This policy was revised in 2018 in line with:

- *Keeping children safe in education* (September 2018)
- *Working Together To Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (July 2018)
- *The Children Act 1989 and 2004*
- *London Child Protection Procedures* (4th edition, 2012)
- *Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales* (March 2015)
- *Sexual Violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges* (May 2018)

Objectives

Everyone at the Arts Educational Schools shares an objective to help keep children and young people safe by contributing to:

- Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn in educational settings;
- Identifying children and young people who may be in need of early help or who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; and
- Taking appropriate action and working with other services as needed, with the aim of making sure that they are kept safe both at home and in the educational setting.

The objectives referred to above are achieved through developing systems within the school aimed at:

- Raising awareness of individual responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse;
- Providing a systematic means of monitoring, recording and reporting concerns and cases;
- Providing guidance on recognising and dealing with suspected child abuse;
- Promoting safe practice and challenging poor and unsafe practice;
- Providing a framework for inter-agency communication and effective liaison;
- Identifying the strategies and interventions available to support children at risk;
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop; and
- Ensuring we practise safe recruitment when checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children in line with the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

Procedure

The role of independent schools in relation to child protection is the same as that of any other school. At the Arts Educational Schools, we adopt the principles and pursue the objectives contained within the statutory guidance. The guidance stresses the importance of establishing channels of communication with the Local Education Authority (Hounslow) Safeguarding Children’s Board so that children requiring support receive prompt attention and any allegations of abuse can be properly investigated. All staff, including the Headteacher, are to receive external training in child protection every three to four years, and in addition they should receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually. In addition all staff will receive annual safeguarding training by the DSL at the beginning of every year.

Any child protection cases would be evaluated after the event and examined to establish whether or not due process had been followed and whether or not there was scope for any improvements to be made. The Designated Safeguarding Lead would seek feedback from both the Hounslow Child Safeguarding Department and from the Designated Trustee responsible for safeguarding as to how ArtsEd’s child protection arrangements could be improved or remedied.

Important contact details

SAAM DUTY, Hounslow LADO	02085835730 cpcc-gcsx@hounslow.gcsx.goc.uk
Hounslow Child Protection Line	02085833200/3400 02085832222 (24 hours)
DfE dedicated phonenumber for non-emergency advice	02073407264
Police force – non-emergency	101
Local community support officers – PC Leigh Tipper	07900656695
Local Channel Police Practitioner	Joan.Conlon@hounslow.gov.uk
Hounslow Prevent Coordinator	Najeeb Ahmed, najeeb.ahmed@hounslow.gov.uk
NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline	08000280285
Hounslow CME Officer Sandra Weir	<u>02085832768</u>

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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1. The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the Board of Trustees to ensure that the school designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. This person should have the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post, including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the Deputy Headteacher, Claire Parker-Wood and the Deputy DSL is the Director of Sixth Form, Mark Ferrington. In her absence, concerns should be taken to the Deputy DSL or the Headteacher, Adrian Blake. During the term time, the DSL and deputy are always available during working hours. After hours, all staff have the mobile numbers of the DSL and DDSL should a safeguarding concern arise. All staff are advised that if they can't speak to the DSL or deputy then they should make a referral to social services if they feel the child is at risk and they should not leave the concerns until they speak to the DSL. Because the pupils at ArtEd come from a wide catchment area, the DSL will need to contact the child's LEA when referring any concerns. The DSL will initially refer to Hounslow Children's Services for advice.

The DSL will:

- Coordinate action within the school and liaise with social care and other agencies over cases of abuse and suspected abuse;
- Hold current, relevant child protection documents and be fully conversant with these procedures;
- Act as a source of expertise and advice within the school, briefing all employees on the relevant contents of the above guidance. This includes briefing new staff and trustees as part of their induction as well as all part-time staff;
- Receive reports of alleged or suspected abuse within the school, or incidents reported by a pupil relating to home or somewhere outside of school, and make child protection referrals and early help referrals, recording and reporting accordingly;
- Refer all cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care and:
 1. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for child protection concerns (all cases which concern a staff member);
 2. Disclosure and Barring Service (cases where a person is dismissed or left due to risk/harm to a child); and/or
 3. The police (cases where a crime may have been committed);
 4. Channel Programme where there is a radicalisation concern,
 5. TRA (in cases of professional misconduct).
- Liaise with children's services and other agencies about individual cases;
- Promote a culture of listening to children;
- Ensure that appropriate strategies for recording and reporting incidents are kept within school;
- Provide appropriate feedback to members of staff as and when necessary;
- Review the school's Safeguarding Policy after each incident to ensure it is robust enough. These amendments would be reported to the Trustee with overall responsibility for safeguarding;
- Oversee the delivery of online safety training and education at the school
- Press for reconsideration if a child's situation does not seem to improve;
- Conduct an annual review of the school's Safeguarding Policy in conjunction with the Designated Safeguarding Trustee (DST) and feed back to the Board of Trustees in November;

- Liaise with all relevant LEAs.

Training

The DSL will:

- Organise regular formal external training on safeguarding within school;
- Undertake level 3 refresher training every two years;
- Ensure all staff have read and understood Part One of KCSIE;
- Ensure staff are trained in online safety;
- Provide a safeguarding induction for all new staff that includes:
 - Part 1 of KCSIE
 - KCSIE Annex A (leaders and those who work directly with children)
 - School Safeguarding Policy
 - Staff Code of Conduct
 - Procedure for dealing with children missing in education (Appendix 6)
 - Prevent;
- Provide safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually;
- Keep a training log of all the safeguarding training attended by staff each year;
- Provide safeguarding training for trustees;
- Liaise with the CPD coordinator to arrange specialist safeguarding training e.g. Prevent duty/suicide prevention.

2. The role of all members of staff (Appendix 1)

Any member of staff who is told of an incident or who has a strong suspicion of abuse occurring within the school, or to a pupil at home or outside of school, must report it to the DSL **immediately**. The DSL will usually decide whether to make a referral to children's social care, but it is important to note that any staff member can refer their concerns to children's social care directly by informing the Hounslow Senior Advisor for Safeguarding Children (02085833200).

If the allegations of abuse are about the DSL, the report should be made to the Headteacher. If the allegations of abuse are about the Headteacher then a referral should be made to the Principal or the Designated Safeguarding Trustee.

If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child, a referral should be made to children's social care immediately. Anybody can make a referral. If the child's situation does not appear to be improving, the staff member with concerns should press for reconsideration. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.

At all times, school staff should:

- Be alert to the signs of abuse as detailed in this policy;
- Recognise that young people with SEND may be more vulnerable to abuse;
- Report any concerns immediately to the DSL;
- Consult with the DSL if in any doubt as to how to proceed;
- Maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here';

- Follow the advice given in this policy in relation to how to handle disclosures; and
- Contribute through the curriculum by developing children's understanding, awareness and resilience.

For children at risk, school may be the one stable place from which they can expect security and reassurance. It is not only about being alert to potential abuse, but providing the support to help children through difficult times, providing them with the coping skills that can help avoid situations arising, and dealing with the emotional difficulties that arise afterwards if they do.

Early help

Early identification of children who may not be at risk of significant harm but are in need of additional support from one or more agencies is also essential. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem arises. These cases should lead to inter-agency assessments using the Local Authority (L.A) processes. If a staff member feels that a child is in need of additional support, as mentioned above, they should record and report their concerns to the DSL. If a decision is made to access Early Help then the safeguarding team will monitor the case and refer should the situation not seem to improve.

Whistle-blowing

ArtsEd values its staff and has a robust system for reporting and handling concerns, including poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding procedures. All staff are required to report to the DSL any concerns or allegations about the behaviour of colleagues or practices that are likely to put pupils at risk of abuse or other serious harm. Any report made to the DSL will be handled with complete sensitivity. The member of staff reporting the alleged incident should be assured that they would not face any retribution as a result of their actions. If a staff member feels unable to raise their concerns internally there is a NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline which the school urges them to contact (08000280285).

3. Role of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must also have regard to KCSIE 2018 to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in the school are effective and comply with the law at all times.

The Board of Trustees will:

- Ensure that the school designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. This person should have the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post, including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff;
- Ensure sufficient funding, time, supervision and support are given to the DSL in order for them to carry out their responsibilities effectively;
- Nominate a senior Trustee to take responsibility for safeguarding arrangements within the school. The DST is Diana Maine;

- Ensure the DST liaises with the local authority and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection, and in the event of allegations of abuse being made against a headteacher, principal and members of the governing body of an independent school;
- Ensure that there is an effective Safeguarding Policy in place together with a Staff Behaviour Policy (Code of Conduct). Both should be provided to all staff;
- Be responsible for undertaking annual reviews of the procedures that apply to child protection and judging the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged;
- Agree the school Safeguarding Policy annually;
- Be responsible for receiving and discussing the updates provided by the DSL as part of the Headmaster's report;
- Ensure that appropriate IT filters and monitoring devices are in place in the school to safeguard students online;
- Consider how children may be taught about safeguarding through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum;
- Ensure there are procedures in place to handle allegations against members of staff and volunteers; and
- Make a referral to children's social care immediately if there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child. Anybody can make a referral.

4. Definition of abuse (Appendix 2)

Abuse is 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 by family or in an institutional or community setting by those who know them, or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Keeping children safe in education (September 2018)

It is not the responsibility of school staff to decide whether child abuse is occurring, but we are required to act on any concerns and report them to the appropriate party. The health, safety and protection of a child are paramount.

Abuse might fall into the categories of:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

Knowing what to look for is vital to early identification of abuse and neglect.

Appendix 2 outlines the signs and form of abuse.

Abuse by one or more pupils against another. Should a staff member suspect that a pupil is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm from another pupil/s, the same referral procedures outlined in this policy will apply. In the event that disclosures are made about pupil on pupil abuse, all the children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, are treated as being 'at risk'. Staff should be aware that peer on

peer abuse can lead to safeguarding issues for example 'sexting' or bullying. It is vital that staff are clear that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter" or "part of growing up". The school will treat any allegations of peer on peer abuse extremely seriously and refer any safeguarding concerns to the local Children's Services. **(Refer to school Anti Bullying Policy and Behaviour Rewards and Sanctions Policy).**

5. Dealing with allegations about a child? (Appendix 1)

The Arts Educational Schools' policy is that brief notes should be made at the time of the incident, or immediately after. Records may be used in legal proceedings and must be kept accurate and secure. All records should be copied to the DSL and should include factual information rather than assumption or interpretation. All information is stored in the DSL's office under lock and key and on the encrypted Student Welfare Area. The child's own language should be quoted rather than paraphrased and staff should not ask leading questions. Staff should never reassure a pupil that what they are saying will be kept in confidence. Records may be used at a later date to support a referral to an external agency.

6. Action by the Designated Safeguarding Lead when a concern is raised

The DSL will:

- Make a decision on whether to continue to monitor the situation or take the referral further. This decision should be communicated to the individual making the initial referral;
- Contact Hounslow Children's Services if unsure at any stage;
- Make additional records of discussions and any investigation that takes place;
- Inform the Headteacher of the allegation unless they are the subject of the allegation;
- Ensure parents see copies of the Child Safeguarding Policy, which alerts them to the fact that referrals may be made and makes them aware of the role of the establishment in this, avoiding conflict later;
- Where a child is referred to social care, complete a referral form and send it to the child's LEA children's services within 24 hours;
- Take any necessary steps for the longer-term protection and support of each pupil who has made allegations of abuse, or is alleged to have suffered from abuse, taking their wishes fully into account;
- Ensure that any pupil being interviewed by the police has available a supportive member of staff of their own choice if necessary;
- Inform the Hounslow Senior Advisor for Safeguarding Children, Sally Phillips (02085833061) or Lyn Wilson; and
- If a child's situation does not seem to improve, press for reconsideration.

Inter-agency liaison

Social care meetings

At times, the DSL will be called to participate in meetings organised and chaired by social care. These might include:

- Register reviews;

- Case conferences;
- Professionals' meetings in which representative professionals from different agencies are asked to meet to discuss children and their families with a view to providing support or making recommendations in terms of the next stages of involvement; and
- Core group meetings, in which a 'core' group of professionals associated with the family are asked to meet to review the progress of actions decided at case conferences and register reviews.

At these meetings, the DSL should be ready to report back, providing information about:

- The child's attendance and punctuality;
- The child's academic achievement;
- The child's behaviour and attitude;
- The child's relationships with their peer group and their social skills generally;
- The child's appearance and readiness for school;
- Contact with parents/carers; and
- Any specific incidents that need reporting.

Prior to the meeting, class teachers and other adults working closely with the child will be asked for their comments. Following the meeting, feedback will be given, as necessary, and staff brought up to date with any actions that are needed.

7. Confidentiality

Where children are on the child protection register and leave one school for another, the DSL must inform the receiving school and the key worker. If the child leaves the school without having a receiving school, details should be passed to the principal education social worker (ESW).

Educational staff have a professional responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with the investigative agencies. Members of staff should not promise confidentiality but can let the child know that only those who need to know will be informed, and always for the child's own sake. Time should be taken to reassure the child and confirm that any information given will be treated sensitively. Reassurance should be given and the adult involved should listen sympathetically and non-judgmentally.

Staff should be careful in subsequent discussions and ensure that information is only given to the appropriate person. All staff should be kept aware of issues relating to confidentiality and the status of any information they may hold. Members of staff, other than the designated member and those closely involved, should only have enough details in order to help them act sensitively and appropriately with a pupil. Sensitive information regarding pastoral issues and for children on the child protection register is kept separately in a folder in the closed section of the office or on the password protected Student Welfare drive. Discretion should be used when talking about the personal and changing circumstances of children (for example, if a child goes into care).

8. Allegations of abuse against a member of staff

Keeping children safe in education (September 2018)

Introduction

Allegations of abuse are difficult and distressing for all concerned. It is essential that policies and procedures are in place to manage these cases. Underpinning these procedures are the following principles: there should be adequate protection for the child and the procedures should ensure that allegations against a member of staff are dealt with fairly, quickly and consistently.

Allegation procedures should be used in all cases in which it is alleged that a teacher or member of staff (including volunteers) that provides education for children under 18 years of age has:

- **Behaved in a way which has harmed a child or may have harmed a child;**
- **Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or**
- **Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates they would pose a risk of harm to children.**

(KCSIE 2018)

DfE Guidance

Step 1: Initial considerations

Discussing the allegation. Allegations regarding staff should be made to the Headteacher or, in their absence, the DSL. If the allegations are about the Headteacher or DSL, they should be reported to the Principal/Chair of Trustees. The DSL/Headteacher should discuss the allegation with the Principal and/or the DST to establish that the allegation is not blatantly false. KCSIE 2018 advises that a case manager is appointed; this would be either the Head/Principal/DST. The role of the case manager is to liaise with the DSL and lead on any decisions made. The LADO should be informed of all allegations that come to a school's attention and appear to meet the criteria set out above (within one day). If this is the case, the school will not undertake its own investigation of the allegations without prior consultation with the LADO, Hetsie van Rooyen 020 8583 3066.

The procedures for dealing with allegations need to be applied with common sense and judgement. Many cases may well either not meet the criteria set out above, or may do so without warranting consideration of either a police investigation or enquiries by the local authority children's social care services. In these cases, local school procedures should be followed to resolve cases without delay. Where the initial consideration decides that the allegation does not involve a possible criminal offence, it will be for the school to deal with it. Borderline case discussions with the LADO can be held informally and without naming the school or individual.

The initial sharing of information with the LADO and evaluation may lead to a decision that no further action is to be taken in regard to the individual facing the allegation or concern, in which case this decision and a justification for it should be recorded by both the case manager and the LADO, and agreement reached on what information should be put in writing to the individual concerned and by whom.

The following terms should be used when determining the outcome of allegations investigations: substantiated, malicious, false, or unsubstantiated.

Step 2: Informing parents

Parents should be informed of the allegation as soon as possible. However, where a strategy discussion is required, or police or children's social care services need to be involved, the case worker should not do so until those agencies have been consulted and have agreed on what information can be disclosed to the parents or carers.

- If there is an indication that the child may have been assaulted, the parent has the right to contact the police and be informed of their rights.
- Parents may decide that they do not want to report to the police. However, the Designated Local Safeguarding Authority Officer will, in most cases, need to consult the police and the police may contact the parents to check their decision.

Step 3: Informing the member of staff

The person who is the subject of the allegation needs to be informed as soon as possible after consultation between the case worker and LADO. Where it is likely that police and/or children's social services will be involved, an agreement needs to be made with those agencies as to what information can be disclosed to the member of staff. If the staff member is a member of a trade union or professional association, they

should be advised to seek support from them. It is advisable that they should also seek independent legal advice.

If the police decide to investigate, the school would not start their own investigation before the police have decided whether or not they intend to take the case through the criminal courts.

The school would seek to support the member of staff as much as possible as they are likely to feel threatened and isolated from others.

Ethos

For the sake of the child, parents and member of staff involved, it is important that the investigation is rigorous, timely, and executed in a professional manner with due consideration for confidentiality and collaboration with other relevant agencies. The findings of the investigation and the rationale for any action taken must be recorded.

Suspending the member of staff

Suspension as a course of action would be considered where there is cause to suspect a pupil is at risk of significant harm, or the allegation warrants investigation by the police, or is so serious that it might be grounds for dismissal. Staff should not be automatically suspended, and alternatives should also be considered. Suspension in a case of this kind is a procedural step only and must be viewed as a neutral action that does not presuppose guilt or innocence. Suspension itself does not constitute disciplinary action, and the member of staff will continue to receive full pay. Any disciplinary action would follow the procedures laid out in the Staff Handbook.

Investigations into an allegation of abuse should start with the presumption that the member of staff is innocent of any wrongdoing unless proven otherwise.
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Confidentiality

As of October 2012, restrictions have been put into place on the reporting or publication of allegations against teachers. The school will make every effort to maintain confidentiality and guard against unwanted publicity.

Criminal investigations

The police will aim to complete their enquiries as quickly as possible, consistent with a fair and thorough investigation. The police are expected to set a review of progress date at the outset of their investigation, which should be no later than four weeks after the initial evaluation.

Disciplinary action

Where it is clear that an investigation by the police or children's social care services is unnecessary or if the Crown Prosecution Service decides against criminal proceedings, disciplinary proceedings must always be considered. Where the initial consideration decides that the allegation does not involve a possible criminal offence, it will be for the school to deal with. In such cases, if the nature of the allegation does not require formal disciplinary action, the Headteacher/caseworker should institute appropriate action within three working days. If a disciplinary hearing is required, the investigating officer should aim to provide the Headteacher with a report within 10 working days.

Resignation and compromise agreements

If a person tenders their resignation during an investigation, or before an investigation has started, the investigation should still be continued and recorded. Compromise agreements must not be used in such cases. Such an agreement may include restrictions on the employer in respect of sharing details of the case.

The school will refer individuals to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where the school ceases to use that person's services (or they left) due to risk/harm to a child. Failure to make a report to the DBS constitutes an offence.

Schools and colleges have a legal duty to refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm to, a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left.

Action in respect of false or unfounded allegations

If the allegation is found to be false, and the person has been suspended, then the school will support him or her as best it can, if necessary with the provision of a mentor to return to work, and will attempt to minimise contact with the pupil(s) involved in making the allegation if they remain at school. The school will consider serious disciplinary action against a child who has been found to make deliberately false allegations. The school may consider asking the police to ascertain whether or not they can take any action against the person responsible.

Records

A record should be kept of all allegations and the individual's confidential personnel file, with a copy being sent to the person concerned. The record should be kept until the member of staff's retirement age or for 10 years, depending on which is longer. Allegations that are found to have been malicious should be removed from the staff member's personal records.

9. How to be a safe teacher (Appendix 3)

Staff are advised to ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place pupils or themselves at risk of harm or at risk of allegations of harm to a pupil. Staff are advised never to disclose their own personal telephone or email addresses to pupils. Pupils can be contacted directly from the School Office using the phone there. Staff should use their ArtsEd email addresses. Staff have also been advised of the need for diligence in their postings on social networking sites, and the advisability of accepting pupils and ex-pupils as friends on these sites.

In addition to the advice above, staff should refer to the school document entitled 'Professional Code of Conduct for Staff' in **Appendix 3**.

10. General advice to staff on contact with pupils

Some form of physical contact with pupils by teachers is inevitable. All teachers should be aware of issues related to touching and the way in which this might be misconstrued. This relates particularly to any sensitive areas of the body. Particular care needs to be taken when making corrections in technique in vocational lessons. This matter is addressed directly in the Performing Arts Department. At the beginning of each year, all Performing Arts staff discuss the issue of touching and physical contact and ask for any pupils who do not wish to be touched to let them know. Where any uncertainty exists, a senior member of staff should be consulted. One-to-one discussions with pupils might most appropriately take place in rooms that are openly visible to other members of staff. In peripatetic music lessons which occur in close one-to one teaching environments the same procedure is followed as mentioned above.

In the event of physical restraint being required, it is important that only the minimum amount is used in order to prevent the pupil from causing injury to themselves, others or property. Following such an intervention, a critical incident form should be completed. Refer to the school's Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy for more information on the use of reasonable force.

11. Safer recruitment procedures

The nature of ArtsEd, with its large number of visiting vocational specialist teachers, as well as its use of staff from the School of Musical Theatre and the School of Acting, poses significantly more challenges regarding safer recruitment. Please refer to the ArtsEd Safer Recruitment Policy for more detailed employment procedures.

It is our aim that all staff working within the Day School and Sixth Form should have undergone the following recruitment checks before they start to work with pupils:

- There has been an identity check and a Barred List/DBS check;
- Proof of identification has been received;
- Medical check;

- Two written references have been received and one of the references has been checked with a follow-up phone call;
- Proof of qualifications has been received;
- The school has been provided with a full CV and a statement has been given to the applicant explaining that any of their previous employers may be approached;
- The employee has been interviewed (if necessary) to explain any gaps in their CV and the interviewer will provide a written record that the explanation is satisfactory. At least one member of the panel will have undertaken Safer Recruitment training;
- Overseas checks are carried out, or evidence that they had been carried out is collected;
- The applicant is informed that their appointment is subject to a satisfactory DBS check and references; and
- The applicant is informed that their appointment is subject to a satisfactory prohibition order check.

Due to the nature of the school, it is sometimes necessary to accept a DBS check from another institution (for example, for a visiting teacher for a half-term period teaching on a specialist unit). A DBS disclosure such as this cannot be accepted if there is a gap of employment of more than three months. A barred list check will be obtained for the staff member. During the time of the employment, the member of staff would be under supervisory arrangements from a line manager or member of the SLT. A single central register is kept of all staff's vetting information, DBS checks, qualifications etc. by Cheryl Jarmen, HR Manager. ArtsEd ensures that staff are appropriately trained regarding safer recruitment.

12. Prevent duty (Appendix 4)

From 1st July 2015, all schools, colleges and universities are expected to have due regard for the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. We are required to think about what we can do to protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation. This is known as Prevent duty. The Designated Prevent Lead is Deputy Principal Jane Morton, with Claire Parker-Wood taking the lead on any issues relating to the Day School and Sixth Form. Any staff member who is concerned that a pupil may be at risk of being drawn into extremism of any kind, which could lead to criminal activity, is required to take these concerns to the Deputy Principal, who will ask for advice and support from the local Prevent Coordinator. Cases may also be referred to the Channel programme for assessment.

The statutory Prevent guidance summarises the requirements of schools, HE institutions and FE colleges into five general themes:

- **Risk assessment**

A risk assessment was undertaken in October 2014 of all our provision, covering both the Day School/Sixth Form and the Higher Education/ Further Education (HE/FE) departments. This identified our risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism as very low risk/no risk. An action plan is in place to ensure that any needs identified are met. Prevent has been added to the institution's Risk Register, which is reviewed by the Board of Trustees in November each year.

- **Working in partnership**

The process for the referral of any concerns is set out in **Appendix 3**. If staff are concerned that a pupil may be at risk of being exploited or radicalised, they should inform the Deputy Principal, who will make a referral to the Channel programme.

We have consulted the HEFCE Prevent Coordinator Steve Hussey and are aware of the names and contact details of the BIS Prevent Coordinators in London. Hounslow

- **Staff training**

The risk assessment identified the need to provide Prevent training for all Day School and Sixth Form staff. All senior pastoral staff have undertaken Prevent training by completing the online training module on Channel General Awareness. In addition school wide Prevent training was conducted in January 2018. for key members of staff. As part of new staff induction, Prevent training is delivered.

The DST has also completed Channel General Awareness training and attended prevent training.

- **IT Policy and Online Safety**

It has always been a breach of ArtsEd Internet policy to download or disclose information which is obscene, sexually, violently, racially or religiously graphic, inflammatory or discriminatory in nature. The Internet Policy makes specific reference to Prevent.

Previously all online activity on ArtsEd computers has been screened, but did not allow for detailed reporting. The risk assessment identified the need for a more sophisticated internet filtering system. Our web filter (Barracuda) is set to restrict inappropriate content or extremist activity and generate detailed reporting to identify any user of the network - whether on wi-fi or networked computers - who is accessing sites which could put them at risk of radicalisation. Any pupil identified by the screening software will be referred to the DSL, and may be referred to the Channel Programme.

Online safety is taught as part of the PSHEE and Citizenship curriculums and expert guest speakers are brought into school to speak to staff, parents and students about how to be safe on line.

- **Policy on external speakers**

At ArtsEd, we value the contribution that external speakers can bring to our pupils' education. We bring in parents and speakers to talk to pupils about their experience of working in the theatre, film, music and television industries. The only other visiting speakers who are invited to ArtsEd are those who offer specialist knowledge in relation to pupil support; for example, giving talks on nutrition, sexual health, staying safe online, stress management or drug awareness.

The credentials of speakers are researched beforehand, where possible, and speakers are accompanied at all times by a member of staff and never left alone with the pupils. This allows for the content of the speaker's speech to be monitored. In addition all guest speakers are 'Google' researched in order to check if they have any extremist views or other safeguarding concerns prior to their visit. A record of the searches is kept by the director of CPD. All external speakers are asked to provide photo I.D upon arrival at reception.

We, therefore, feel that we do not need a separate policy for visiting speakers.

- **Pastoral care**

ArtsEd takes its responsibilities for promoting pupil welfare very seriously, and has well-established systems for providing pupil support. We operate an open door policy, and pupils are encouraged to discuss any problems or anxieties they may be experiencing with any trusted member of staff.

- **Chaplaincy support**

There is no demand for chaplaincy provision and none is provided. Pupils who request a prayer room will be accommodated using the normal room booking procedure, and on request pupils will be granted a leave of absence for significant religious festivals that fall during term time.

13. Reviewing policies and procedures

The DSL will be kept informed of any statutory changes or information from the government, and will ensure that the school's Safeguarding Policy and school practice reflect any changes.

The DSL will conduct an annual review of the school's Safeguarding Policy in conjunction with the DST and will feed back to the Board of Trustees.

In the case of an allegation being made against a staff member, the DSL and designated Trustee will review the school's policy after the allegation and feed back to the Trustees any amendments made to the policy.

The DSL will conduct a review of the school's Safeguarding Policy after each incident to ensure that the policy is robust enough. These amendments would be reported to the Trustee with overall responsibility for safeguarding.

14. Safeguarding onsite

The nature of ArtsEd London means that there are adult students onsite at the same time as Day School and Sixth Form pupils. The Day School classrooms and studios are locked off from the rest of the building by security doors and only students and staff from DSSF can access these areas. In addition all staff, degree and sixth form students must wear an identity badge on the provided lanyard, around their necks whilst in the building or on ArtsEd designated sites. The lanyard must be fully visible and not obstructed by clothing.

In addition pupils are supervised by staff members when they are in communal areas like the canteen and foyer and the entire building has CCTV cameras which are monitored by the IT Department.

Review of Child Safeguarding Policy

Policy written by:	Claire Parker-Wood
Date of policy review:	September 2018
Next review date:	September 2019

Circulated to the Principal, Board of Trustees, and teaching staff. This policy will be made available to parents and pupils on the website and on request.

APPENDIX 1

Responding when children disclose acts of abuse

It is necessary to create the right atmosphere when meeting and communicating with children, to help them feel at ease and reduce any pressure from parents, carers or others. Children will need reassurance that they will not be victimised for sharing information or asking for help or protection. It is essential that any accounts of adverse experiences coming from children are as accurate and complete as possible. Accuracy is key, for without it effective decisions cannot be made and, equally, inaccurate accounts can lead to children remaining unsafe, or to the possibility of wrongful actions being taken that affect children and adults.

Communicating with vulnerable children: a guide for practitioners

If a staff member is the recipient of a child's confidence, it is their responsibility to observe, record and report. It is not the responsibility of staff in schools to investigate possible abuse or neglect. They have a key role to play by referring concerns to the DSL, providing information for police investigations and contributing towards assessments. The DSL will, in turn, refer concerns onto the local (Hounslow) children's social care.

Staff should:

- Listen with care, allowing silence;
- Reassure the child that they are not to blame and was right to tell you;
- Not show disbelief;
- Not appear shocked or angry;
- Not give a guarantee of confidentiality;
- Take all allegations seriously;
- Avoid being judgemental about the information given by the child;
- Not pursue matters with direct questioning; a child may become distressed when faced with persistent questioning. 'Open ended' questions should be used rather than 'leading' questions. The child should never be interrogated;
- Ask the informing adult or child what steps they would like to be taken to protect them now that they have made the allegation, and assure them that the school will try to follow their wishes;
- Not interview alleged victims, perpetrators, those reporting abuse and others involved beyond the point at which it is clear that there is an allegation of abuse. The interviewing of children and adults is now carried out by specially trained staff only, following procedures agreed by the local education authority and the police;
- Provide a written report within 24hours and make a copy available to the DSL; and
- Refer to the DSL in accordance with the school's guidelines.

REMEMBER

Keep detailed notes and make a record of them on the same day.

Be vigilant for signs of abuse and never assume that abuse is impossible within the school.

The identity of the alleged perpetrator, be they staff, an adult or another pupil, will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the statutory reporting procedures.

APPENDIX 2

Indicators of abuse

It is important to note that lists such as the one below are neither completely definitive nor exhaustive. A child may be subject to a combination of different kinds of abuse. It is also possible that a child may show no outward signs and hide what is happening from everyone.

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.

Signs of possible physical abuse:

- Unexplained recurrent injuries or burns;
- Fabricated or induced illness;
- Injuries that form a shape or pattern that may look like the object used to make the injury (e.g. buckle, hand, iron, teeth, cigarette burns);
- Improbable excuses or refusal to explain injuries;
- Wearing clothes to cover injuries, even in hot weather;
- Refusal to change for vocational lessons;
- Bald patches;
- Running away;
- Fear of medical help or examination;
- Self-destructive tendencies;
- Aggression towards others;
- Fear of physical contact – shrinking back if touched;
- Admitting that they are punished, but the punishment is excessive (such as a child being beaten every night to 'make him study'); and
- Fear of their suspected abuser being contacted.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in and/or watch sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Signs of sexual abuse:

- Being overly affectionate or knowledgeable in a sexual way inappropriate to the child's age;
- Medical problems, such as chronic itching, pain in the genitals, venereal diseases;
- Other extreme reactions, such as depression, self-mutilation, suicide attempts, running away, overdoses, anorexia;
- Personality changes, such as becoming insecure or clingy;
- Regressing to younger behaviour patterns, such as thumb sucking or bringing out discarded cuddly toys;
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating;
- Being isolated or withdrawn;
- Inability to concentrate;
- Lack of trust or fear of someone they know well, such as not wanting to be alone with a babysitter or child minder;
- Displays sexual knowledge beyond their years;

- Overly sexualised behaviour, promiscuity;
- Pregnancy, particularly when reluctant to name father;
- Starting to wet again, day or night/nightmares;
- Becomes worried about clothing being removed;
- Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures;
- Drugs, alcohol or solvent abuse; and
- Trying to be 'ultra-good' or perfect, overreacting to criticism.

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development/the refusal or failure to give adequate love or affection.

Signs of possible emotional abuse are:

- Physical, mental and emotional development lags;
- Low self-esteem;
- Sudden speech disorders;
- Continual self-depreciation ('I'm stupid, ugly, worthless, etc.');
- Overreaction to mistakes;
- Extreme fear of any new situation;
- Inappropriate response to pain ('I deserve this');
- Neurotic behaviour (rocking, hair twisting, self-mutilation);
- Running away; and
- Extremes of passivity or aggression.

Neglect

This is where parents/carers fail to meet the basic essential needs of children, which is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. This includes leaving children alone and unsupervised.

Signs of possible neglect are:

- Constant hunger;
- Poor personal hygiene;
- Constant tiredness;
- Poor state of clothing;
- Emaciation;
- Untreated medical problems;
- No social relationships;
- Compulsive scavenging; and
- Destructive tendencies.

A child going missing from an educational setting is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. At ArtsEd, if a child goes missing, particularly on multiple occasions or for more than 10 days consecutively, they will be reported to Children's Social Services immediately. We will act to identify any risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation.

- **Refer to Kidscape, the NSPCC website and the Hounslow Safeguarding Children Board for further information regarding indicators of abuse.**

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship.

It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

FGM is a criminal offence, and as an educational institution we have a mandatory duty to report any suspected cases to the police within one month of initial disclosure/identification.

A girl or woman who has had FGM may:

- Have difficulty walking, sitting or standing;
- Spend longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet;
- Have unusual behaviour after an absence from college;
- Frequent infections
- Be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations; and
- Ask for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

Call the FGM helpline if you're worried that a pupil is at risk of, or has had, FGM on 0800 028 3550 or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk.

Sexting

In *KCSIE 2018* the DfE sets out information about peer-on-peer abuse. It says peer abuse can take many different forms, including 'sexting'. In dealing with allegations of 'sexting' and the potential for this to develop into peer-on-peer abuse the school will refer to the advice from UKCCIS '*Sexting' in school and colleges; responding to incidents and safeguarding young people*'.

It gives guidance on:

- Handling a disclosure of 'sexting'
- Assessing the risks to the young person
- Searching devices for images
- Informing other staff members about the incident
- Informing parents/carers about the incident
- Interviewing the young persons involved in the 'sexting' incident
- Deciding on a response
- Contacting other agencies/ reporting the incident to the police
- Educating young people and parents about 'sexting'

Where an image has been shared between personal devices, the policy says staff should always confiscate and secure the device, but should never:

- **View the image,**
- **Send, share or save the image;**
- **Allow pupils to do either of the above.**

All incidents of 'sexting' should be reported to the DSL

APPENDIX 3

THE ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS, LONDON PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STAFF

The Department for Education published new statutory guidance in April 2014 in which it states that schools must have a Code of Conduct for Staff. It is the role of the Governors to agree the Code of Conduct. Please refer to the institutional Staff Handbook for guidance on staff expectations, sexual harassment etc.

School staff are in a unique position of influence and therefore must adhere to behaviour that models the highest possible standards for all pupils within the school. A Code of Conduct is designed to give clear guidance on the standards of behaviour all school staff are expected to observe.

At ArtsEd, staff are expected to:

- Demonstrate consistently high standards of professional conduct in order for pupils to do the same.
- Maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, both inside and outside school.
- Place the needs and safety of the child at the centre of any decision they make.
- Avoid putting themselves at risk or placing themselves in a vulnerable situation, which may lead to allegations of abusive or unprofessional conduct.

Safe working practices for the protection of pupils and staff at the Arts Educational Schools

Introduction

The following guidelines have been created in conjunction with the Arts Educational Safeguarding Policy, KCSIE 2018 and *Teachers' Standards* (2012). A failure to follow these guidelines would make it very difficult for the school to support a staff member if an allegation were made.

If a member of staff does not follow this Code of Conduct, this may lead to disciplinary procedures.

All staff are advised to demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times. The following guidelines are mainly common sense; however, they should be observed at all times. Staff may be required to make professional judgements/decisions not covered in this document and are expected to show professionalism and due care when doing so. In such situations, the staff member would be expected to report the incident to their line manager.

1. Duty of care

- It is vital that the wellbeing and safety of the child are paramount and always put above their academic or vocational achievements.
- All staff should know the name of the DSL, be familiar with the child safeguarding arrangements and understand their responsibilities regarding child protection.

2. Power and positions of trust

- All adults working with pupils in education settings are in positions of trust in relation to the young people in their care. A relationship between a member of staff and a pupil cannot be a relationship between equals. Where an adult is in a position of trust with a child under 18, it is a criminal offence for that person to engage in sexual activity with or in the presence of that child, or to incite that child to engage in or watch sexual activity.
- Where an adult in a position of trust attempts to engage in sexual activity with a person who attends the school but who is 18 the school will still see this as a breach of their position of trust, resulting in a cause for concern and disciplinary action and.
- Where an adult in a position of trust attempts to engage in sexual activity with a person who attended the school recently (within three years) it will be seen as a breach of their position of trust, resulting in a cause for concern and disciplinary action.

3. Professionalism

- All staff are expected to behave professionally at all times. Being professional includes:
 - Being punctual and well-prepared;
 - Carrying out tasks to the best of their ability;
 - Taking pride in all aspects of their work;
 - Dressing appropriately: all staff are expected to dress appropriately and they should set an example in what they wear;
 - Observing all Health and Safety regulations;
 - All absence being genuine; and
 - Meeting all deadlines.
- In all interaction with pupils, teachers must remember that they are the adult and as such they have a moral and legal duty to behave in a considered and appropriate manner. This is still the case with Sixth Formers, even those who are 18.
- Staff should never criticise/undermine or question the decisions of another member of staff in conversations with pupils or in front of pupils.

4. Confidentiality

- Staff have access to confidential information about pupils in order to conduct their everyday responsibilities. They should never use confidential or personal information about a pupil or their family for any other purposes. Information should never be used to intimidate or humiliate a pupil.
- Initiating or perpetuating anything that could be construed as 'gossip' is not acceptable under any circumstances; all staff have a responsibility to judge what is just salacious 'hearsay' and what is actually content that needs to be acted upon by referring to the DSL (CPW) or the Head (AB). All staff must exercise due confidentiality towards matters that are discussed or overheard. It is the duty of the staff member to report any concerns to the

Headteacher/DSL and not discuss the matter with other members of staff or parents.

5. Behaviour

- All staff have a responsibility to maintain public confidence in their ability to safeguard the welfare and best interests of pupils. No aspect of an individual's behaviour, either in or out of the workplace, should compromise their position within the work environment, so it is important to exercise due care and attention outside of school.
- Staff should never use inappropriate language (swearing) around pupils and should challenge any pupils who use inappropriate language themselves.
- Avoid engaging in provocative (sexual or physical) conversations with pupils. This applies particularly to the Sixth Form. While discussions of sexuality may occur during specific PSHCE lessons, teachers should not refer to personal experience or assert judgements. Avoid discussing pupils' personal sexual relationships. Handle discussions about pupils' sexual relationships carefully, and don't allow them to be used as a platform by pupils to find out gossip or for pupils to boast.
- Staff should always strive to be excellent role models for pupils, and excellent ambassadors for ArtsEd. This involves modelling professional behaviour at all times and not drinking excessively/smoking around pupils/parents at any school-related functions; for example, shows, trips, welcome evenings, Teachers and Parents (TAP) events, etc.
- Staff should not drink alcohol with current pupils in public or private places, nor purchase alcohol for pupils.
- Staff are not allowed to drink alcohol when in a position of responsibility relating to the duty of care towards pupils. This includes when supervising pupils on trips, backstage or at any school-related event.

6. Dress and appearance

- Dressing appropriately: all staff are expected to dress appropriately and they should set an example in what they wear. Put simply: 'If you can see through it, up it or down it, it is not appropriate to wear to school'.
- Staff can wear vocational clothing when teaching vocational classes (for example, Drama or Dance) but should change into smart casual attire for parent/teacher meetings and school events.
- No jeans or denim.

7. Infatuations

- Staff need to be aware that it is not uncommon for pupils to become strongly attracted to a staff member. A member of staff who becomes aware of such an

incident should discuss this at the earliest opportunity with their line manager and/or the DSL.

- Staff should be vigilant of the following behaviour as it may indicate the pupil has a potentially unhealthy attachment to a member of staff. As soon as the teacher feels in anyway uncomfortable, they should seek advice and it will be noted as a concern.
 1. Personal space – pupils standing very close to you.
 2. Making excessive demands of you – time, energy, emotional wellbeing.
 3. Making personal comments – about your clothes, face, manner, height, body shape, personal life.
- Staff should never spend excessive amounts of time alone with pupils away from others. If you find a particular pupil always wants one-to-one meetings with you, get other pupils to come along or go to Homework Club with them.

8. Communication with pupils

- Communication between staff and pupils, by whatever method, should be within clear and explicit professional boundaries. This includes mobile phones/email/photos/social networking sites/websites, etc.
- Staff should never give pupils their mobile numbers unless it's an emergency. Afterwards, the teacher must check that the pupil has deleted their mobile number.
- Staff should avoid ringing pupils from their mobiles unless it is a last resort and should then check to see that the pupil has deleted their number.
- Staff should not use Internet or web-based communication channels to send personal messages to a pupil.
- Staff should not make images of pupils available on the Internet, other than through the school network/website, without consent from parents.
- Staff should not have images of pupils stored on personal cameras or computers.
- Staff should be very conscious of the way in which they speak/communicate with pupils. No matter how positive their relationship with a pupil is, they are still in a position of authority and thus throwaway remarks, sarcastic comments or put-downs can have a greater effect than they anticipate. The risk of this is heightened if comments are made outside of school hours when the boundaries between school and non-school or teacher and friend are more blurred.

9. Personal living arrangements.

- A teacher should never go to a pupil's house unless it is essential and has been previously discussed with the DSL and agreed with the child's parents.
- A pupil should never be invited to a teacher's house.

- Staff should also be wary about what personal information they disclose to pupils about their personal lives, the reason being that some pupils could get the message that there is an invitation for greater intimacy/friendship/openness than was actually being given.

10. Social networking sites and online gaming

- Staff should not be friends with current or recent pupils on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram etc. even if they are sure they have the highest settings in place (this includes ex-pupils, as they are often friends with current pupils).
- Staff must ensure that there are not any potentially compromising personal photos or information on any of the school computers or on social networking sites, e.g. Twitter/Instagram/Facebook. Staff should be aware that they leave themselves open to charges of professional misconduct if compromising images are made available on a public profile by anyone.
- Staff should be vigilant in maintaining their privacy and should be mindful of the need to avoid placing themselves in vulnerable situations.

11. Advice to staff on physical contact with pupils

- There are times when it is entirely appropriate for staff to have physical contact with a pupil, but it is crucial that they do so in an appropriate and professional way.
- Staff should ensure that any manual/physical support required should be provided openly and in line with the Safeguarding Policy and individual departmental policies. It is advised that members of staff seek the consent of a pupil before a touch is made – “is it okay if I hold your shoulder to support your weight ...?” HOD’s and the DSL should be consulted if you are uncertain on how to handle these situations
- Staff should never touch a pupil in a way that may be considered indecent.
- There may be occasions when a distressed pupil needs comfort and assurance. This may include age-appropriate physical contact. Staff should remain self-aware at all times to ensure that the contact is not misinterpreted or intrusive.
- Staff may legitimately physically intervene to maintain pupil safety or prevent a pupil from committing a criminal offence, injuring themselves or others, or causing damage to property.

12. One-to-one situations

- Staff should always work in an open environment, avoiding private or unobserved situations. One-to-one meetings should not happen behind closed doors that do not have a vision panel. It is advised that, where possible, the

door is left open and the meeting does not occur in a room that is away from the main academic corridors/art rooms.

- Pre-arranged meetings with pupils away from school premises should not occur unless approval is obtained from the Head or DSL.

13. Transporting pupils

- Staff should never give a lift to a pupil in their car without previously discussing it with the DSL and receiving written consent from the parents.
- Where the staff member is transporting the pupil in their private vehicle they must ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy/insured and that the maximum capacity is not exceeded. The driver must also have appropriate insurance.
- A teacher should never meet up with pupils outside the school environment/day without previously discussing the matter with the Headteacher, DSL or Head of Sixth Form. In all cases, parents should be notified. If it is a weekend rehearsal, the Director of Performing Arts should be informed. A *brief* risk assessment should be completed for a weekend rehearsal, and staff must have considered arrangements for eating and supervision during this time. If it is not possible for the member of staff to supervise and pupils are to be left alone, this must be clearly communicated in the letter home about the rehearsal and the risk assessment. Copies will need to be emailed to Frank Daniel.

14. Curriculum

- Many areas of the curriculum can include or raise subject matter that is sexually explicit or of a sensitive nature. Staff must ensure that the resources used clearly relate to the learning outcomes and are age appropriate. The wellbeing of the pupil should be paramount and a pupil should not feel distressed by the content/discussions in a lesson. If at any point a pupil does become upset during the lesson, they should be allowed to leave the classroom/studio, and the member of staff should address the concern at the first available opportunity. The staff member is advised to remove any further reference to the sensitive subject matter from future lessons.
- Unplanned discussions about sensitive subject matter should be handled carefully and without the staff member asserting their personal judgements.

15. Internet use

- Under no circumstances should adults access inappropriate images on the Internet. Accessing child pornography or indecent images of children is a criminal offence that will be reported to the police and will invariably lead to the individual being barred from working with children and young people.

16. Whistle-blowing

- ArtsEd values its staff and has a robust system for reporting and handling concerns, including poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's

safeguarding procedures. All staff are required to report to the DSL any concerns or allegations about the behaviour of colleagues or practices that are likely to put pupils at risk of abuse or other serious harm. Any report made to the DSL will be handled with complete sensitivity. The member of staff reporting the alleged incident should be assured that they would not face any retribution as a result of their actions.

This Code of Conduct forms part of the school's disciplinary rules for staff. A serious breach of the code will be regarded as gross misconduct. A less serious breach may result in a disciplinary warning or another consequence.

Prevent duty and the Channel programme

What is Channel?

Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour.

Channel is designed to work with individuals of any age who are at risk of being exploited by extremist or terrorist ideologues. The process is shaped around the circumstances of each person and can provide support for any form of radicalisation or personal vulnerability.

Channel interventions are delivered through local partners and specialist agencies. The support may focus on a person's vulnerabilities around health, education, employment or housing, as well as specialist mentoring or faith guidance and broader diversionary activities such as sport. Each support package is tailored to the person and their particular circumstances.

How to recognise the signs of radicalisation

Staff are directed to the online Channel General Awareness training course at http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness.

The course takes about 20 minutes to complete. It gives general guidance on recognising the signs of radicalisation, and explains what Channel does to support people who may be vulnerable to exploitation, or may already be posing a risk to others.

What to do if you have a concern

ArtsEd's Designated Prevent Lead is the Deputy Principal, Jane Morton. If you believe that someone is vulnerable to being exploited or radicalised, inform Jane Morton and she will seek advice and support from our local Prevent Coordinator. However, **anyone can ask for advice or make a referral**.

Referrals should be made to the safeguarding team of the pupil's borough of residence, and copied to our Local Channel Police Practitioner, Joan Conlon at Hounslow Borough, who will refer to the Channel programme if required.

If you have any immediate concerns:

Phone the police non-emergency line: 101

Other useful Prevent contacts:

Local Channel Police Practitioner	Joan.Conlon@hounslow.gov.uk
Hounslow Prevent Coordinator	Tim.Pope@met.pnn.police.uk
Prevent Coordinators BIS – London area,	Erin MacGalloway - 020 7974 2662 erin.macgalloway@camden.gov.uk
Prevent Coordinator HEFCE,	Richard Huzzey 0117 931 7119

Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment

What is meant by sexual violence and sexual harassment?

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can be between two children, or a group of children. **Sexual violence** refers to rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault. **Sexual harassment** includes such things as sexual comments; sexual jokes; physical behaviour such as deliberately brushing against someone, or displaying photos of a sexual nature; and online activity including sharing of images or video (sexting) or making inappropriate sexual comments (Note - this list is not exhaustive).

Both sexes may be affected, although girls are more likely to be victims of sexual violence, and boys are more likely to be perpetrators of sexual harassment. Children with SEND are likely to be more vulnerable.

Responding to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment

Reports of sexual violence are often complex and require difficult decisions to be made. Decisions ultimately are made on a case-by-case basis, with the DSL taking a leading role, supported by other agencies such as children's social care or the police.

Some situations are statutorily clear: a child under the age of 13 can never consent to sexual activity (the age of consent is 16); sexual intercourse without consent is rape (as defined in law); creating or sharing sexual images or videos of under 18s is illegal, including children making or sharing these themselves. See *Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people*

At all times we will carefully consider any report of sexual violence or harassment and act in the best interests of the child. It is important that all staff show that sexual violence and sexual harassment are unacceptable, and not passed off as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'.

Immediate response to a disclosure

The initial response to a disclosure is important and staff should ensure the victim is taken seriously and supported. Staff should not assume that someone else is dealing with the incident, and should discuss concerns with the DSL. Where an incident between two pupils takes place away from the school, the school's duties remain the same.

How a staff member responds to a disclosure is the same as they would regarding any other disclosure (see Appendix one) with the following additional prompts to bear in mind:

- Staff should be aware of anonymity in cases where an allegation is progressing through the criminal justice system.
- Schools should do all they reasonably can to protect the anonymity of any children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment, including considering the impact of social media.
- Schools should make a risk assessment in cases of a report of sexual violence, considering the victim, alleged perpetrator and other children at the school.
- Risk assessments should be kept under review. In cases of sexual

violence a professional risk assessment by external specialists may be required, and should be used to inform the school's own risk assessment. ^[1]_[SEP]

- While the facts are being established, schools should consider removing the alleged perpetrator from any classes shared with the victim, and consider how best to keep them a reasonable distance apart, in the best interests of both children. The school will always take the victim's wishes into consideration.
- Schools should also consider carefully when to inform the alleged perpetrator, and this may be discussed with relevant agencies. ^[1]_[SEP]
- It is important that the school ensures the victim and perpetrator remain protected, especially from bullying or harassment

There are four likely routes to consider when managing a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment:

Managing internally: in some cases of sexual harassment (such as one-off incidents) a school may manage ^[1]_[SEP]the incident internally; ^[1]_[SEP]

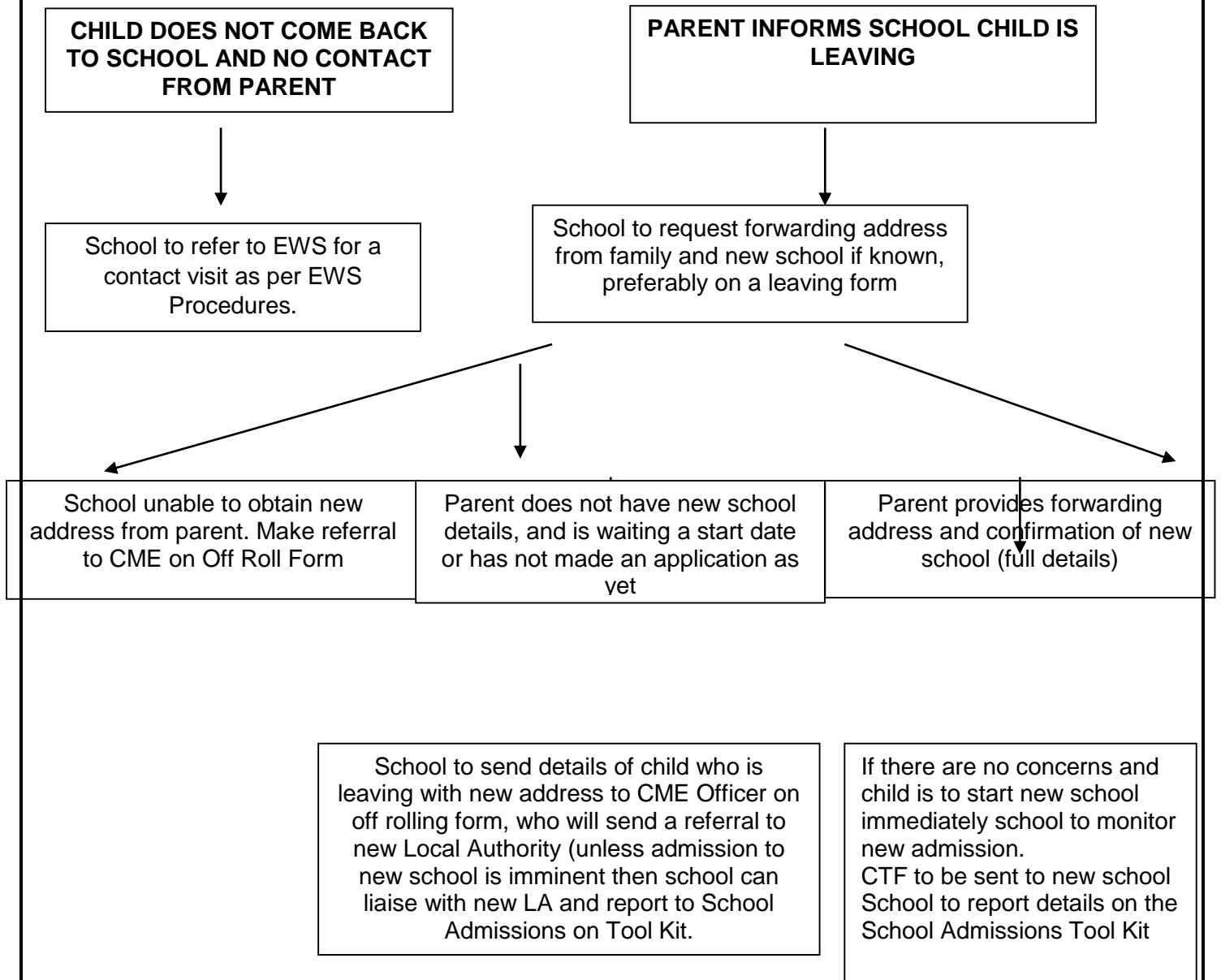
Early help: this is particularly useful in addressing non-violent, harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation; ^[1]_[SEP]

Referrals to children's social care: in cases where there has been harm, or there is an immediate risk, a referral should be made to children's social care; ^[1]_[SEP]

Reporting to the police: in cases where rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is reported. Schools should not wait for the outcome of a police investigation before protecting the victim, perpetrator and other children in the school. The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure that the school's actions do not jeopardise the police investigation. If a child is convicted or cautioned, the school will update the risk assessment and consider suitable action through their behaviour policy.

APPENDIX 6

CHILDREN MISSING IN EDUCATION PROCEDURE



CME Officer sends referral to new LA, child
is put on the EMS Base “pupils out of school
– moved away” base
School to download CTF to Lost Pupils
Database or await contact from school if
imminent