

Richmond Hill Primary Academy

Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

Date Approved:		Approved by:	
Date for Review:	March 2018	Written by:	K.Cousins

Introduction

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

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

Policy Aims:

The aims of this policy are to:

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

Statutory Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Vulnerabilities

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

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

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

Warning Signs

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

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

Risk Assessment and Consent

In assessing whether a child or young person is a victim of sexual exploitation, or at risk of becoming a victim, careful consideration should be given to the issue of consent. It is important to bear in mind that:

- A child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other type of sexual touching
- Sexual activity with a child under 16 is also an offence
- It is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old if they hold a position of trust or authority in relation to them

- Where sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old does not result in an offence being committed, it may still result in harm, or the likelihood of harm being suffered
- Non consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim
- If the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim or his or her family has been subject to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have given the true consent and therefore offences may have been committed.

Child sexual exploitation is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 years old and not just those in a specific age group

What To Do If You Suspect Child Sexual Exploitation

Staff should follow the Academy's normal safeguarding procedures, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016) and Working Together to Keep Children Safe.

Any safeguarding concerns are to be reported immediately to the Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead who will refer to the Referrals and Response team.