



Hexham Priory School
Never underestimate a child's ability



Hexham Priory School

Appendix to Academy Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Effective Date: September 2019

Next Review Date: September 2020

Statutory? Y

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Safeguarding Procedures

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Liz Davison

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Sarah Nixon, Catherine Leifert

This Policy is an appendix to the Eden Academy Trust's overarching safeguarding Policy and must be read in conjunction with it.

Safeguarding Statement

Hexham Priory School fully recognises its responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils.

Our core safeguarding principles are:

- the school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- safer children make more successful learners

As an individual of this community we also have a duty to ourselves, to keep ourselves safe from harm both in the short and long term; in doing so we must recognise the support we can give to others.

Safeguarding Procedures – In school

If staff notice any indicators of abuse/neglect or signs that a child may be experiencing a safeguarding issue they should record these concerns using the CPOMS notification system and submit it to the DSL or in their absence the Deputy DSL. They may also discuss their concerns in person with the DSL but the details of the concern must also be recorded on the CPOMS notification system.

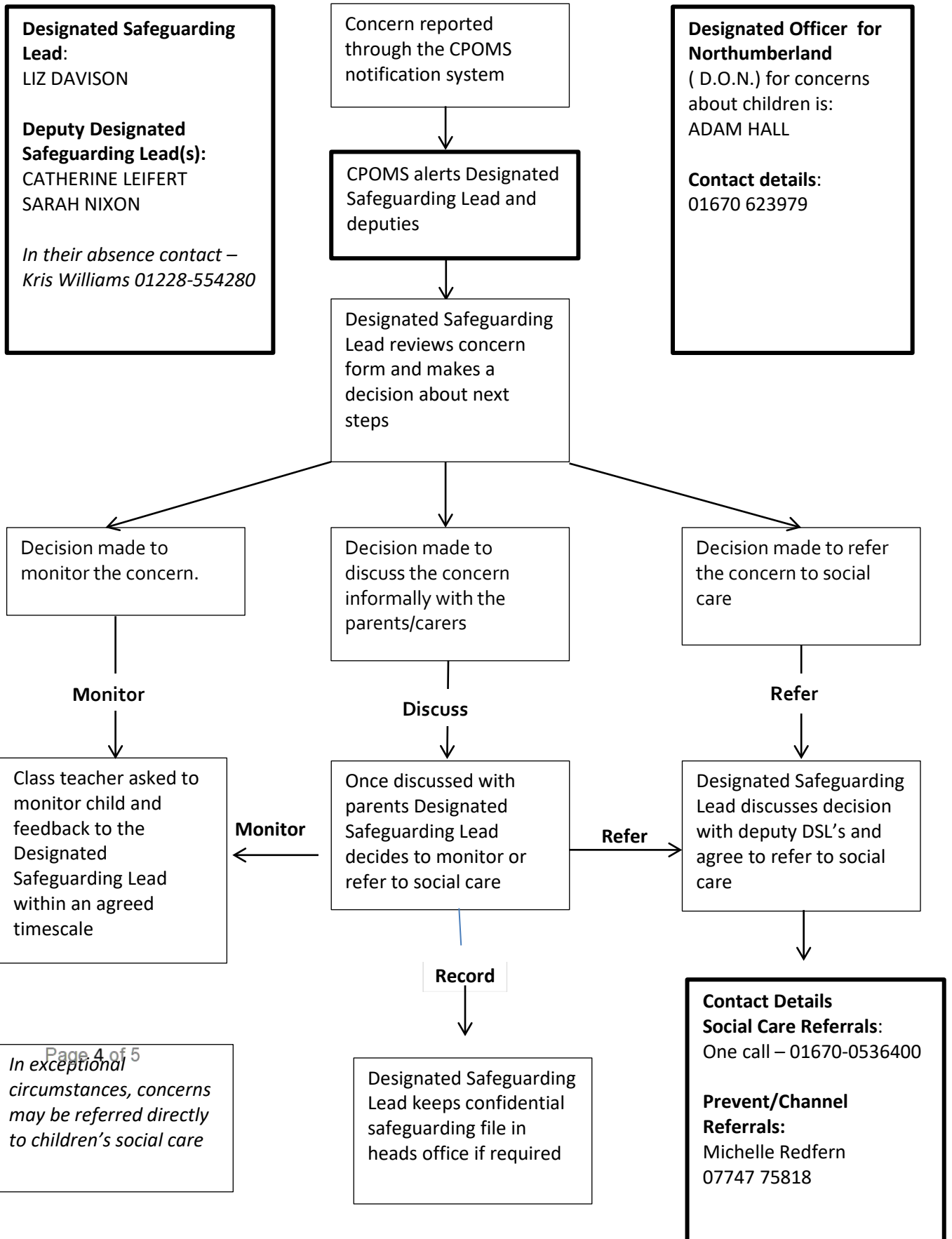
In the unlikely event of DSL or deputy DSL's being available staff should contact Kris Williams – Senior Head Teacher (North) with their concerns 01228-554280

Any concerns out of hours must be reported to
One call: 01670-536400.

All safeguarding information will be kept locked in the DSL's office and will only be available to the DSL and Deputy DSL'S.

The DSL and Deputy DSL's will meet at regular intervals with the Senior Head teacher (North) to keep abreast of all safeguarding issues in school, Social services will be invited to these meetings in order to provide the DSL's with supervision and to offer any insights and additional information.

Flow chart for raising safeguarding concerns about a child



Information About the School

Hexham Priory School caters for pupils aged two to 19 years all of whom have either severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. The capacity of the School is deemed to be 112, but there are currently 106 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils live within west Northumberland, a small number live close to the School, but most travel to the school in either a mini bus or a taxi provided by Northumberland County Council.

Our pupils have complex learning needs, some have complex communication needs, some have fixed mind-sets and it can be difficult for others to understand their view of the world, and for them to understand others view of the world. This means that they may not be able to tell others if they are worried, scared or something has happened, they are potentially more vulnerable to manipulation and being coerced, equally they may have trouble understanding if they are manipulating or coercing and why this is wrong.

Our pupils' sphere of understanding can be limited or restricted to their own personal experience so understanding *socially acceptable norms* is not always possible.

For those who do work with our young people there is a danger that signs of safeguarding issues are put down to the individuals learning needs, e.g. being withdrawn, poor communication, being tired etc. It is up to us to advocate for our young people and explain their and our concerns to ensure they are heard.

Operation Encompass

The school is part of Northumberland's 'Operation Encompass' initiative. This is an innovative project which is run in partnership with Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police. Operation Encompass aims to support children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or can be physically hurt by trying to stop the abuse.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to.

The school safeguarding leads have been fully trained in liaising with police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following the disclosure of a domestic abuse incident.

Curriculum

In order to keep our pupils safe, it is not enough to follow our moral and statutory responsibilities in providing safe environments, structures, policies, procedures and support we must also teach our pupils how to keep themselves and others safe; we have a duty to prepare our children for life in the world beyond Hexham Priory.

We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. Child protection forms part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities.

Hexham Priory ensures that through our school vision, values, rules, diverse and differentiated curriculum and teaching, we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles, and we actively celebrate diversity and inclusion. We must also ensure that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare.

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and relationship and sex education (RSE) is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education. At Hexham Priory School we strive to develop our children's independence, well-being, confidence and social communication skills to ensure they are achieving their maximum potential. Through a planned developmental programme of learning, pupils at Hexham Priory School acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies they need to live healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives now and in the future.

Planning for PSHE and RSE covers emotional health and well-being, rights and responsibilities, personal and social development and sex and relationship education at a level appropriate to our pupils' age and ability. At Hexham Priory School we acknowledge the importance of relationships education. RSE teaching begins at an early level, for example, being able to identify people by gender and moves at an appropriate pace as required by individual pupils. Pupils are supported to develop the strategies they need to reduce or remove barriers to learning therefore significantly improving their capacity to learn and achieve.

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a new Home Office approved project. It is being led by Northumbria Police in partnership with Barnardo's. The project, named Operation Encompass the Next Steps, aims to form part of a wider strategy to break the cycle of Domestic Abuse through education and support. The project will help the pupils to learn about friendships, relationships, emotions and rules so that they can live and work together safely. Our school will also benefit from having one of twelve School Safeguarding Liaison Officers who will:

- Work with our teachers to deliver an age appropriate session exploring aspects of Domestic Abuse/friendships /relationships/emotions
- Be available in school at specified times so that children and parents can talk about issues that they may have around relationships and Domestic Abuse.

Esafety

Children are increasingly using electronic equipment on a daily basis to access the internet and share content and images via social networking sites including Facebook, Twitter, MSN, Tumblr, Snapchat and Instagram.

Unfortunately, some adults and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to grooming and enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, webcam photography or face-to-face meetings.

Pupils may also be distressed or harmed by accessing inappropriate websites that promote unhealthy lifestyles, extremist behaviour and criminal activity.

The school has a range of policies to cover e safety issues, these can be found on the school network, staff share, policies, safeguarding and include e safety, use of images, social networking, mobile phone policy.

The school's **e-safety/online safety policy and Acceptable User Policy**, available on the School Network and website, explains how we try to keep pupils safe in school and protect and educate pupils in the safe use of technology. Cyberbullying and sexting by pupils will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. Serious incidents may be managed in line with our child protection procedures. All staff and volunteers at the school are required to sign the acceptable use of IT agreement before they begin working or volunteering in the school .

Hexham Priory School uses Senso Cloud monitoring software for all online activity in school, this is provided by Northumberland County Council. Focused lessons raise understanding and awareness of how to keep safe online and when using social media. We enhance our learning by involvement in Safer Internet Day activities each year.

School has also provided online safety training for parents to enable them to support their child's online use whilst out of school.

All staff receive regular e-safety training and the school's **e-safety coordinator** is **Sarah Nixon**.

Signed on behalf of The Eden Academy Safeguarding Hub: 

Andrew Sanders (Safeguarding Lead for the Eden Academy)

25/9/19