

# BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL

## Policy Title: Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

### Section A Introduction

The welfare and safety of all pupils at Bridgewater High School will be given our highest priority. Sexual exploitation of children and young people has been identified throughout the UK. This is a recognised form of Child Abuse. It affects boys and young men as well as girls and young women. It is a form of sexual abuse and can have a serious impact on every aspect of the lives of children involved. The term Sexual exploitation has become increasingly recognisable. Practitioners are becoming more aware of how to identify the signs to indicate grooming and other methods of sexual exploitation. Bridgewater High School, like all agencies are taking a proactive and coordinated approach to deal with it. Children involved in any form of sexual exploitation should be treated primarily as victims of abuse and their needs carefully assessed. The aim should be to protect them from further harm.

### Definitions and Explanation

The sexual exploitation of children is defined as:

'involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them engaging in sexual activities.'

### It can be further explained by:

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of the fact that they have gained their trust. Their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources allow that trust to be abused. Violence, coercion and intimidation are often involved in exploitative relationships. Such relationships are characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability (Office of Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child sexual exploitation in Gangs and Groups, Nov 2012)

## **Roles and Responsibilities.**

The principal will ensure that resources, training, support and time is afforded to the Designated Senior Lead to undertake their whole school responsibility.

The Designated Senior Person will ensure that an effective curriculum structure is in place to prevent students falling victim to CSE by:

Educating pupils from Year 7 about healthy relationships. From Year 8 onwards the PSHE curriculum and Alternative Curriculum events will focus on supporting our pupils to recognise risk and to manage their own behaviour around risk. The curriculum will also allow student to reflect on what a unhealthy relationship would look like and how to find support if in that situation. **(PSHE/STAY SAFE CURRICULUM)**

**The objectives of this curriculum structure will be to help students understand:**

- respect and responsibilities within any relationship.
- how to stay safe.
- an understanding of what to do and who to discuss issues with
- an awareness of unhealthy relationships, sexual exploitation and grooming
- an understanding of dangerous and exploitative situations
- an opportunity to explore gender stereotypes and gender roles
- an increased awareness of risk, assessing risk and the consequences of risk taking, including sexual bullying and peer pressure
- an opportunity to build skills and confidence in developing positive, healthy relationships.

**The Designated Senior Lead will ensure that staff are aware of CSE and the part that they play in helping to keep our students safe by:**

Accessing training, multi-agency briefings on CSE and emerging guidance.

Briefing staff routinely on how to spot the signs that a child may be victim of or at risk of CSE. (see appendix 1)

Directing materials to all staff from National Campaigns like **ThinkUknow** through briefings at whole school inset and through Year Team Meeting structure.

- Advising staff that for any concern about a child to direct their concern to the child's Pastoral Manager or the Designated Senior Lead.
- The Designated Senior Lead will ensure that processes for referral to ensure that help is secured for the pupil are robust by:

- Training Pastoral Staff on the completion of the CSE screening tool.
- Allowing time for completion and discussion when completing the screening tool.
- Allocate an Inclusion worker to mentor and support pupils believed to be at risk.
- To monitor the pupil and where there are significant concerns identified to refer through to MCSETTO available to PAM'S and DSL.
- To provide time and supervision for pastoral staff working with children victim of or at high risk of CSE.

**The Designated Senior lead supported by the Pastoral staff will ensure that Parents are aware of the issue of CSE by:**

- Distribution of National Campaign and Local campaign material.
- Advice on the school web site on who to contact in school with Safeguarding concerns
- Key Worker support for the family of children involved or at risk.

**The Designated Senior Lead will monitor and review the school's practise around CSE by:**

- Reviewing Policy annually through the Safeguarding Committee
- Reviewing Cases of children involved in CSE annually with the Safeguarding Committee.
- Reviewing pupils most vulnerable to CSE at each of the Safeguarding Team meetings.

**All Staff have a responsibility to**

- be aware of the signs of CSE and alert the Designated Senior Lead and/ or Pastoral Staff . The signs are included in appendix 1 and form part of the Thinkuknow campaign.
- report any concerns about the safety of a child under the legislation behind the Child Protection Policy.

## Appendix 1

### **Signs which may indicate CSE**

The individual factors may not mean anything in themselves and you may already know that the right staff are aware of the pupil's situation and working with them. However we should always remember that it is never wrong to pass something on no matter how small it may seem.

All Staff should be aware of this list and inform a member of the Pastoral Team or Designated Senior Lead if they become aware of the following:

- Chaotic Home
- Poor Attendance
- Early Sexualised Behaviour
- Family Mental Health
- Historic Abuse
- Bereavement
- Friend of CSE victim
- Learning difficulties
- Unsure of sexual orientation
- Homeless or moving between homes
- Older or younger friends
- In Care
- Low Self Esteem
- Missing or Runaway
- Physical injuries
- Substance Abuse
- Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Estranged form family
- Changes in Appearance
- Sexually bullied
- Self-Harm
- Attempted Suicide
- Secret Calls
- Poor E-Safety history
- Older boyfriend/girlfriend