



Risk Assessment Policy

Date Policy/ Guidance Written	22.08. 2020
DFE Recommended Review Frequency	Annually
Date Approved	August 2020
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Author	Hecabe DuFraise
Date of next review	August 2021
File Location	Compliance File & School Website / Policies
Details of dissemination of Policy/ Guidance (to who, date, method)	Staff at relevant meetings and through Line Management and Staff Appraisal. Referred to regularly in line with SEND training School Website



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1.Introduction

This is the risk assessment policy for pupil welfare of SMS Changing Lives School (the **School**). The purpose of this policy is:

- to actively promote the wellbeing of pupils of the School;
- to ensure that all employees of the School are aware of, and follow, the School's approach to pupil wellbeing; and
- to implement a framework for the assessment of risk(s) to pupil wellbeing.

It is drawn up and implemented in accordance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/3283) (the **ISSRs**) and has regard to the Part 3 obligations of the proprietor to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the School by the implementation of a written risk assessment policy and the Part 8 obligations of those with leadership and management responsibilities to actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

2.Responsibilities

The proprietor of the school has overall responsibility for safeguarding and promoting pupil welfare and well-being at the School.

At an operational level, the **Head Teacher** will:

- ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils is suitably promoted;
- ensure that all staff are aware of, and adhere to, the School's policies and procedures on pupil health, safety and welfare;
- ensure that key staff have clearly established roles and responsibilities;
- ensure that staff are appropriately trained to deal with pupil welfare issues;
- ensure that where concerns about a pupil's welfare are identified, the risks are appropriately managed;
- consult with staff, pupils, parents and others, where appropriate, to find practical solutions to welfare issues;
- ensure that standards of pupil welfare at the School are regularly monitored both at an individual level and across the whole school community to identify trends and issues of concern and to improve systems to manage these.

Those named in paragraph 3.5 are responsible for carrying out risk assessments in relation to the specific matters of pupil health, safety and welfare covered in those policies.



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3.Pupil welfare

The School recognizes its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils in its care. This responsibility encompasses the following principles:

- to support pupils' physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing (as well as their social and economic well-being);
- to protect pupils from harm and neglect;
- to recognise that corporal punishment can never be justified;
- to provide pupils with appropriate education, training and recreation;
- to encourage pupils to contribute to society;
- to protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation, extremism and being drawn into terrorism;

- to build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by actively promoting fundamental British values, enabling pupils to challenge extremist views;
- to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism and to provide appropriate support for those identified as being at risk;
- to ensure that pupils are provided with a safe and healthy environment so far as reasonably practicable; and
- to manage welfare concerns effectively.

The School recognizes that individual pupils may have needs which arise from physical, medical, sensory, learning, emotional or behavioural difficulties which require provision additional to or different from that generally required by children of the same age in mainstream schools. The School is committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of all of its pupils having regard to the special requirements of individual pupils but, where appropriate or necessary, balancing the special requirements of individual pupils against the School's responsibilities to promote and safeguard the welfare of all its pupils.

The School addresses its commitment to these principles through:

Prevention - ensuring that all reasonable measures are taken to minimise the risk of harm to pupils and their welfare by:

- ensuring through training that all staff are aware of and committed to this policy and the values set out;
- establishing a positive, supportive and secure environment in which pupils can learn and develop;
- including in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSHE which equip pupils with skills to enable them to protect their own welfare and that of others; and



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- providing medical and pastoral support that is accessibly available to all pupils.

Protection - ensuring all appropriate actions are taken to address concerns about the welfare of a pupil, whether of a safeguarding nature or otherwise.

This includes:

- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving pupils and their parents appropriately; and
- monitoring pupils known or thought to be at risk of harm and formulating and / or contributing to support packages for those pupils.

The School recognises that pupil welfare and well-being can be adversely affected by many matters whether in or away from school, including abuse, bullying, radicalisation, behavioural and health issues.

The School has developed this policy and the policies in the table below, which set out full details of its procedures to safeguard and promote pupil health, safety and welfare in accordance with its duties under Part 3 of the ISSRs .

Policy	Responsibility for risk assessments
Safeguarding / Child Protection	Designated Safeguarding Lead- Carol Nolan Child Protection officer – Jonathan Davies
Anti-bullying	Head Teacher- Hecabe DuFraise SENDCo – Carol Nolan
Behaviour	Head Teacher- Hecabe DuFraise SENDCo – Carol Nolan Behaviour for Learning Managers
Health and safety policy	Head Teacher- Hecabe DuFraise SENDCo – Carol Nolan
First aid policy	Head Teacher- Hecabe DuFraise SENDCo – Carol Nolan
Educational visits policy	Head Teacher- Hecabe DuFraise SENDCo – Carol Nolan Head of Teaching and Learning – Jennifer Bryne Behaviour for Learning Managers



4. Risk assessment

Where a concern about a pupil's welfare is identified, the risks to that pupil's welfare will be assessed and appropriate action will be taken to reduce the risks identified. The assessment and action will be recorded and regularly monitored and reviewed. More guidance on risk assessment can be found in Appendix 1.

The format of risk assessment may vary and may be included as part of the school's overall response to a welfare issue. Regardless of the format used, the School's approach to promoting pupil welfare will be systematic and pupil focused.

The information obtained through this process and the action agreed will be shared, as appropriate, with other staff, parents and third parties in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of a particular pupil or of pupils generally.

The School will keep all relevant pastoral records on CPOMS. This will be updated regularly and is available to all teaching staff on a controlled basis.

5. Safeguarding / child protection

With regard to safeguarding risks, and in accordance with current statutory guidance, including:

- Keeping children safe in education (Department for Education September 2019)
- Working together to safeguard children (HM Government July 2018)
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (HM Government March 2015)
- Information Sharing (HM Government July 2018)
- Prevent Duty guidance (HM Government 2015)
- Part 3 of the **ISSRs** the School has systems in place to identify pupils who may be in need of extra help, or those who are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm, and will take appropriate action to address and mitigate those risks by working in conjunction with social care, the police (including, in relation to those identified as being at risk of radicalisation, the Channel Police Practitioner), health services and other services, where appropriate or necessary.

Full details of the School's safeguarding procedures are set out in the Safeguarding Policy.



6. Protection from radicalisation and extremism

Details of the School's procedures to prevent pupils from becoming radicalised and / or being drawn into extremism and / or terrorism in accordance with the *Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales 2015* (HM Government) and the departmental advice on the *Prevent duty* (Department for Education (DfE)) are also contained within the Safeguarding Policy.

- The School will meet these obligations by assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into radicalisation and / or extremism and / or terrorism and putting in place control measures to support those at risk.
- The School is committed to providing a safe space in which pupils can consider and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.
- The School will ensure that the arrangements for visiting speakers, whether invited by staff, pupils or parents, are suitably risk assessed before the visit takes place and that clear protocols are in place to ensure that those visiting speakers are suitable and are appropriately supervised when on School premises.

7. Anti-bullying

The School has a written Anti-bullying policy which covers the School's approach to the management of bullying and cyber bullying.

8. Behaviour

The School has a written Behaviour Policy which sets out how it promotes good behaviour amongst pupils and the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupil misbehaviour.

This policy contains further information about the School's performance of its duties under the Equality Act 2010 (and reasonable adjustments made for pupils with disabilities), support systems for pupils and liaison between parents and other agencies.

9. Health and safety

In accordance with its obligations under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and with Part 3 of the ISSRs, the School has a duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees and the health and safety of pupils and others affected by the School's operations, so far as is reasonably practicable.

The School will meet this requirement by taking a sensible, proportionate and holistic approach to management of health and safety issues in accordance with the School's obligations and its health and safety policies.



10.Reporting

When assessing risks to pupil welfare and well-being at the School, all staff should also consider whether the matter should be reported to outside agencies and /or regulatory bodies, including but not restricted to, Children's Services, the Police (including, in relation to those identified as being at risk of radicalisation, the Channel Police Practitioner), Ofsted, CAMHS, the Charity Commission.

Unless required by law or provided for otherwise in the School's policies or in statutory guidance, the member of staff concerned should discuss the decision to report to outside agencies and /or regulatory bodies with the Designated Safeguarding Lead before making such a report. If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a pupil, a referral should be made to children's social care immediately. Anybody can make a referral. If the pupil's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re- consideration. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.

11.Information sharing

Wherever the School proposes to share information under this policy or related welfare policies, it will have due regard to the principles set out in the DfE advice note, *"Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers"* (March 2015).

12.Monitoring and review

Relevant risk assessments and any action taken in response to risk assessments will be monitored regularly by the Head Teacher or another senior member of staff.

This policy and related School procedures will be reviewed annually by the proprietor and updated as necessary.

In undertaking the monitoring and review of relevant risk assessments and this policy (as necessary), the Head Teacher will seek to identify trends and understand issues of concern and to take steps to improve systems to manage these.



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Appendix 1 Guidance on risk assessment

A pupil welfare risk assessment is a careful examination of what could cause harm to pupil welfare and a consideration of appropriate control measures, so that you can weigh up whether the School has taken adequate precautions or should take additional steps to prevent the risk of harm.

The purpose of a risk assessment is not to create huge amounts of paperwork, but rather to identify sensible measures to control real risks - those that are most likely to occur and / or will cause the most harm if they do.

When thinking about your risk assessment in this context, remember:

- a welfare issue is anything that may harm a pupil; to include cyber-bullying, abuse and the risk of radicalisation and extremism.
- the risk is the chance that a pupil could be harmed, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be if it occurs.

Step 1: Identify the issue

First you need to work out how pupils could be harmed. This will generally be set out in the concern raised about a pupil's welfare.

Step 2: Decide who might be harmed and how

Identify individual pupils or groups of pupils who might be harmed and how they might be harmed by the concern raised.

Step 3: Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions

Decide what to do about the risks.

Compare what you currently do with what is required by law, DfE guidance or is accepted good practice. If there is a difference, list what needs to be done to protect the pupil's welfare. Where appropriate take into account any special requirements or protected characteristics.

Step 4: Record your findings and implement them

Make a written record of your significant findings - the concern, the issues, how pupil(s) might be harmed and what arrangements the School has in place to control those risks.

There is no prescribed format for this record but any record produced should be simple and focussed on control measures and the steps the School proposes to take to manage the risk.

Step 5: Review your risk assessment and update, if necessary

Review what you are doing for the pupils identified and across the School generally and monitor and review the efficacy and / or the outcome of the measures you have put in



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place on a regular basis, or as required.

Authorised by Proprietor	Jonathan Davies
Date	16.10.2018
Circulation	teaching staff / all staff / parents / website