



Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

# Child Protection Policy 2020-2021

This policy is a mandatory policy for all Vine schools and must be implemented with no amendments.

**"I am the vine; you are the branches.  
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit"  
(John 15:5)**

The Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust	
Approved by:	The Vine Schools Trust
Signature:	Tim Rose Chairman
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**Amendments in this version:**

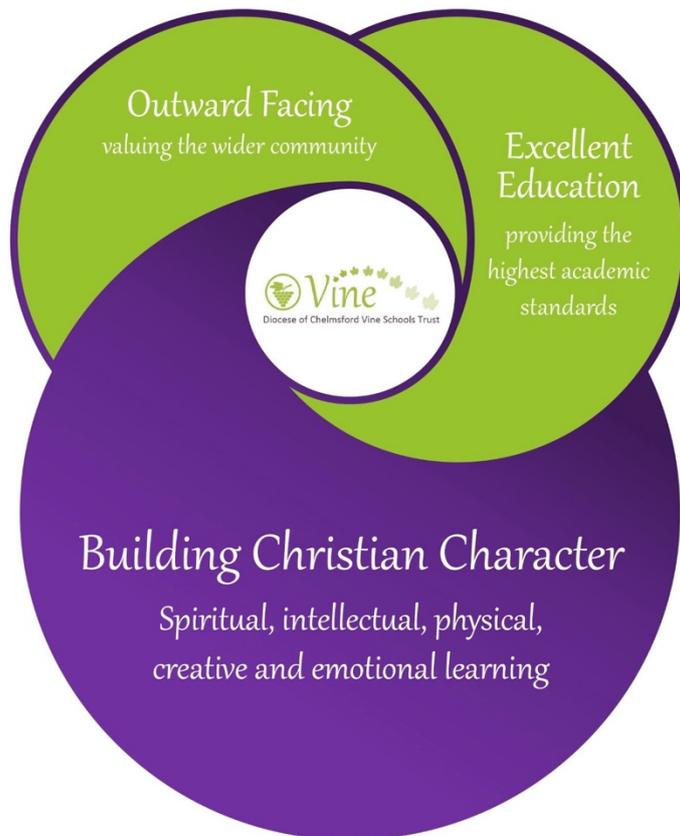
1. Minor formatting
2. Addition of section 5 'Children potentially at risk of greater harm'
3. Reference in 10.6 to the Dealing With Safeguarding Allegations Against Adults Policy
4. Additional paragraphs 4-7 in Appendix C



Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

## Vision & Values

- V** Valuing every person
- I** Inspiring great teaching
- N** Nurturing academic excellence and Christian Character
- E** Excelling, unlocking great potential



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## 1. Introduction

- 4.1. Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.  
(Keeping Children Safe in Education – DfE, 2020)
- 4.2. This Vine Schools Trust Child Protection policy is for all staff, parents, governors, volunteers and the wider school community. It forms part of the safeguarding arrangements for our school and should be read in conjunction with the following:
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2020)
  - the school Behaviour policy;
  - the school Staff Behaviour policy (sometimes called Staff Code of Conduct);
  - the safeguarding response to children missing from education
  - the role of the designated safeguarding lead (Annex B of KCSIE)
- 4.3. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (everyone under the age of 18) is defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education as:
- Protecting children from maltreatment
  - Preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development
  - Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
  - Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

## 2. Statutory framework

- 2.1. There is government guidance set out in [Working Together \(HMG, 2018\)](#) on how agencies must work in partnership to keep children safe. This guidance places a shared and equal duty on three Safeguarding Partners (the Local Authority, Police and Health) to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area under multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. These arrangements sit under the [Essex Safeguarding Children Board](#) (ESCB). In Essex, the statutory partners are Essex County Council, Essex Police and five of the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups covering the county.
- 2.2. Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (*Section 157 for Independent schools*) places a statutory responsibility on the governing body to have policies and procedures in place that safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils of the school.
- 2.3. In Essex, all professionals must work in accordance with the [SET Procedures \(ESCB, 2019\)](#). Our school also works in accordance with the following legislation and guidance (*this is not an exhaustive list*):

[Keeping Children Safe in Education \(DfE, 2020\)](#)

[Working Together \(HMG, 2018\)](#)

[Education Act \(2002\)](#)

[Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex \(ESCB, 2017\)](#)

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Act \(HMG, 2015\)](#)

[Serious Crime Act 2015 \(Home Office, 2015\)](#)

[Children and Social Work Act \(2017\)](#)

[Children Missing Education - statutory guidance for local authorities \(DfE, 2016\)](#)  
[Sexual Offences Act \(2003\)](#)  
[Education \(Pupil Registration\) Regulations 2006](#)  
[Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners \(HMG, 2018\)](#)  
[Data Protection Act \(2018\)](#)  
[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused \(HMG, 2015\)](#)  
[Searching, screening and confiscation \(DfE, 2018\)](#)  
[Children Act \(1989\)](#)  
[Children Act \(2004\)](#)  
[Preventing and Tackling Bullying \(DfE, 2017\)](#)  
[Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 \(S. 74 - Serious Crime Act 2015\)](#)  
[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges \(DfE, 2018\)](#)  
[Promoting positive emotional well-being and reducing the risk of suicide \(ESCB, 2018\)](#)  
[Preventing youth violence and gang involvement \(Home Office, 2015\)](#)  
[Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adult - county lines guidance \(Home Office, 2018\)](#)  
[Teaching on-line safety in schools \(DfE, 2019\)](#)  
[Education Access Team CME / Home Education policy and practice \(ECC, 2018\)](#)  
[Understanding and Supporting Behaviour - safe practice for schools and educational settings \(ESCB 2020\)](#)

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.3. All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to protect them and to provide a safe environment in which they can learn and achieve their full potential. However, there are key people within schools and the Local Authority who have specific responsibilities under child protection procedures. The names of those in our school with these specific responsibilities (the designated safeguarding lead and deputy designated safeguarding lead) are shown on the Appendix.

#### The Vine Schools Trust Board of Directors

- 3.4. The Vine Schools Trust Board ensures that the policies, procedures and training in the Trust are effective and comply with the law at all times. They ensure that all required policies relating to safeguarding are in place, that the child protection policy reflects statutory and local guidance and is reviewed at least annually.
- 3.5. The Vine Schools Trust Board and Local Schools Board both have a member with responsibility for safeguarding arrangements and are named in the Appendix of this document. The Director takes over responsibility for all Vine Trust Schools and the local member takes responsibility for safeguarding arrangements locally.

#### The Local Schools (governance) Board

- 3.6. The Local Schools Board ensures there is a named designated safeguarding lead and at least one deputy safeguarding lead in place (also named in the Appendix D).
- 3.7. The Local Schools Board ensures the school contributes to inter-agency working, in line with statutory and local guidance. It ensures that information is shared and stored appropriately and in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 3.8. The Local Schools Board ensures that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction and that it is then regularly updated. All staff members receive regular

safeguarding and child protection updates, at least annually, to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to keep our children safe.

- 3.9. The Local Schools Board ensures pupils are taught about safeguarding (including online safety) through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. From September 2020, each school will work in accordance with new government regulations which make the subjects of Relationships Education and Health Education mandatory.
- 3.10. The Local Schools Board and school leadership team are responsible for ensuring the school follows recruitment procedures that help to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children. It adheres to statutory responsibilities to check adults working with children and has recruitment and selection procedures in place (see the Vine Schools Trust Recruitment Policy (H019) for further information about 'Safer Recruitment'). It ensures that volunteers are appropriately supervised in school.

### **The Headteacher**

- 3.11. The Headteacher works in accordance with the requirements upon all school staff. In addition, (s)he ensures that all safeguarding policies and procedures adopted by the Vine Schools Trust are followed by all staff.

### **The Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy / Deputies)**

- 3.12. The designated safeguarding lead in school has ultimate lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. Their role includes managing child protection referrals, working with other agencies, ensuring all staff are appropriately trained and raising awareness of all safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures. They ensure that everyone in school (including temporary staff, volunteers and contractors) is aware of these procedures and that they are followed at all times. They act as a source of advice and support for other staff (on child protection matters) and ensure that timely referrals to Essex Children's Social Care (Children and Families Hub) are made in accordance with current SET procedures. They work with the local authority and the ESCB as required and ensure that information is shared appropriately.
- 3.13. The deputy/deputies designated safeguarding lead is / are trained to the same standard as the designated safeguarding lead. If for any reason the designated safeguarding lead is unavailable, the deputy/deputies designated safeguarding lead will act in their absence.

### **All school staff**

- 3.14. Everyone in the school has a responsibility to provide a safe learning environment in which our children can learn. Any child may benefit from early help and all staff members are aware of the local early help process and our role in it. They are aware of signs of abuse and neglect so they are able to identify children who may be in need of help or protection. All staff members are aware of and follow school processes (as set out in this policy) and are aware of how to make a referral to Social Care if there is a need to do so. If staff have any concerns about a child's welfare, they must act on them immediately and speak with the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) – they do not assume that others have taken action.

## **4 Types of abuse / specific safeguarding issues**

- 4.1. Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2020) describes abuse in the following way:

"Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children"

4.2. Keeping Children Safe in Education refers to four categories of abuse:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

4.3. All staff in the Vine Schools Trust are aware of the signs of abuse and neglect so we are able to identify children who may be in need of help or protection. All staff are aware of environmental factors which may impact on a child's welfare and safety and understand safeguarding in the wider context (contextual safeguarding). We understand that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely 'stand-alone' events and that, in most cases, multiple issues will overlap.

4.4. In addition, staff are aware of other types of abuse and safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm and understand that behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking, alcohol abuse, deliberately missing education and sexting put children in danger.

### **Child criminal exploitation**

4.5. Child criminal exploitation is a geographically widespread form of harm which is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity (county lines is when drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban areas and seaside towns). All Vine Schools Trust schools work with key partners locally to prevent and respond to child criminal exploitation.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

4.6. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child abuse, which can happen to boys and girls from any background or community. In Essex, the definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) from the Department of Education (DfE, 2017) has been adopted:

4.7. "Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs when 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 sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology".

4.8. It is understood that a significant number of children who are victims of CSE go missing from home, care and education at some point. All Vine Schools Trust schools are alert to the signs and indicators of a child becoming at risk of, or subject to, CSE and will take appropriate action to respond to any concerns. The designated safeguarding lead will lead on these issues and work with other agencies as appropriate. This [one page process map](#) sets out arrangements for CSE in Essex.

### **Children missing from education**

4.9. All children, regardless of their age, ability, aptitude and any special education needs they may have are entitled to a full-time education. Vine Schools Trust schools recognise that a child missing education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and will follow the school procedures for unauthorised absence and for children missing education. It is also recognised that, when not in school, children may be vulnerable to or exposed to other risks, so we work with parents and other partners to keep children in school whenever possible.

4.10. Parents should always inform their school of the reason for any absence. Where contact is not made, a referral may be made to another appropriate agency ([Education Access Team](#), Social Care or Police). Parents are required to provide at least two emergency contact numbers to the school, to enable us to communicate with someone if we need to.

4.11. All Vine Schools Trust school must inform the local authority of any pupil who has been absent without school permission for a continuous period of 10 days or more.

### **Contextual safeguarding**

4.12. Safeguarding incidents and behaviours can be associated with factors outside a school. All staff are aware of contextual safeguarding and the fact they should consider whether wider environmental factors present in a child's life are a threat to their safety and / or welfare. To this end, all relevant information will be considered when assessing any risk to a child and share it with other agencies to support better understanding of a child and their family.

### **Domestic abuse**

4.13. Domestic abuse can take many forms, including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional. All Vine Schools Trust schools recognise that exposure to domestic abuse can have a serious, long-term emotional and psychological impact on children. We work with other key partners and will share relevant information where there are concerns that domestic abuse may be an issue for a child or family or be placing a child at risk of harm.

### **So-called 'honour-based violence' (including Female Genital Mutilation and forced marriage)**

4.14. *Female Genital Mutilation* (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse.

4.15. As of October 2015, the Serious Crime Act 2015 (Home Office, 2015) introduced a duty on teachers (and other professionals) to notify the police of known cases of female genital mutilation where it appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18. All Vine Schools Trust schools will operate in accordance with the statutory requirements relating to this issue, and in line with local safeguarding procedures.

4.16. A *forced marriage* is one entered into without the full consent of one or both parties. It is where violence, threats or other forms of coercion is used and is a crime. Our staff understand how to report concerns where this may be an issue.

### **Mental health**

4.17. Our staff are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. We understand that, where children have suffered abuse or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Where we have concerns, this may impact on mental health, we will seek advice and work with other agencies as appropriate to support a child and ensure they receive the help they need.

4.18. Positive mental health is the concern of the whole community and we recognise that schools play a key part in this. All Vine Schools Trust schools aim to develop the emotional wellbeing and resilience of all pupils and staff, as well as provide specific support for those with additional needs. We understand that there are risk factors which increase someone's vulnerability and protective factors that can promote or strengthen resiliency. The more risk factors present in an individual's life, the more protective factors or supportive interventions are required to counter-balance and promote further growth of resilience.

4.19. It is vital that we work in partnership with parents to support the well-being of our pupils. Parents should share any concerns about the well-being of their child with school, so appropriate support and interventions can be identified and implemented.

### **Online safety**

4.20. We recognise that our children are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but we recognise it also presents challenges and risks. Any pupil can be vulnerable online, and their vulnerability can fluctuate depending

on their age, developmental stage and personal circumstance. We want to equip our pupils with the knowledge needed to make the best use of the internet and technology in a safe, considered and respectful way, so they are able to reap the benefits of the online world.

4.21. The three main areas of online risk could be categorised as:

**content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;

**contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example, commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults;

**conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying

4.22. All Vine Schools Trust schools seek to help children keep themselves safe online in a range of ways - further information about our approach to online safety is available in our Social Media Policy (I1001) and Online Safety Policy (I002).

### Peer on peer abuse

4.23. A Vine Schools Trust school may be the only stable, secure and safe element in the lives of children at risk of, or who have suffered harm. Nevertheless, whilst at school, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant, or they may instead be withdrawn, or display abusive behaviours towards other children. The school recognises that some children may abuse their peers and any incidents of peer on peer abuse will be managed in the same way as any other child protection concern and will follow the same procedures. We will seek advice and support from other agencies as appropriate.

4.24. Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This may include bullying (including cyber bullying), physical abuse, sexual violence / sexual harassment, 'up-skirting', 'sexting' or initiation / hazing type violence and rituals.

4.25. We do not tolerate any harmful behaviour in school and will take swift action to intervene where this occurs. We use lessons and assemblies to help children understand, in an age-appropriate way what abuse is and we encourage them to tell a trusted adult if someone is behaving in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. All Vine Schools Trust school understands the different gender issues that can be prevalent when dealing with peer on peer abuse. Further information is in the Behaviour Policy (A004).

### Prevention of radicalisation

4.26. As of July 2015, the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act \(HMG, 2015\)](#) placed a new duty on schools and other education providers. Under section 26 of the Act, schools are required, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

4.27. It requires schools to:

- teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life and must promote community cohesion
- be safe spaces in which children / young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas
- be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues

4.28. CHANNEL is a national programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

4.29. All Vine Schools Trust schools work in accordance with local procedures for PREVENT and with other agencies, sharing information and concerns as appropriate. Where we have concerns about extremism or radicalisation, we will seek advice from appropriate agencies and, if necessary, refer to Social Care and / or the Channel Panel.

### Serious violence

4.30. All staff are aware of indicators which may signal that children are at risk from or involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in well-being, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that a child has been approached by, or is involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

## 5 Children potentially at risk of greater harm

5.1 The Vine Schools Trust recognises that some children may potentially be at risk of greater harm and require additional help and support. These may be children with a Child in Need or Child Protection Plan, those in Care or previously in Care or those requiring mental health support. Schools will work with Social Care and other appropriate agencies to ensure there is a joined-up approach to planning for these children and that they receive the right help at the right time.

5.2 The Vine Schools Trust understands that children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability, without further exploration
- That they may be more prone to peer group isolation than others
- The potential to be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying, without outwardly showing signs
- Communication difficulties in overcoming these barriers

## 6. Procedures

6.1. Vine Trust Schools work with key local partners to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This includes providing a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified and contributing to inter-agency plans which provide additional support (through a Child in Need or a Child Protection plan).

6.2. All staff members have a duty to identify and respond to suspected / actual abuse or disclosures of abuse. Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor to the school who receives a disclosure or allegation of abuse, or suspects that abuse may have occurred **must** report it immediately to the designated safeguarding lead (or, in their absence, the deputy designated safeguarding lead).

6.3. All action is taken in accordance with the following guidance:

- Essex Safeguarding Children Board guidelines - the SET (Southend, Essex and Thurrock) Child Protection Procedures (ESCB, 2019)
- [Essex Effective Support](#)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2020)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, 2018)
- 'Effective Support for Children and Families in Essex' (ESCB, 2017)
- PREVENT Duty - Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (HMG, 2015)

- 6.4. Any staff member or visitor to a Vine Schools Trust school must refer any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead or deputy designated safeguarding lead. Where there is risk of immediate harm, concerns will be referred by telephone to the Children and Families Hub and / or the Police. Less urgent concerns or requests for support will be sent to the Children and Families Hub via the [Essex Effective Support](#) portal. The school may also seek advice from Social Care or another appropriate agency about a concern, if we are unsure how to respond to it. Wherever possible, we will share any safeguarding concerns, or an intention to refer a child to Children's Social Care, with parents or carers. However, we will not do so where it is felt that to do so could place a child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. On occasions, it may be necessary to consult with the Children and Families Hub and / or Essex Police for advice on when to share information with parents / carers.
- 6.5. If a member of staff continues to have concerns about a child and feels the situation is not being addressed or does not appear to be improving, all staff understand they should press for re-consideration of the case with the designated safeguarding lead.
- 6.6. If, for any reason, the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) is not available, this will not delay appropriate action being taken. Safeguarding contact details are displayed in the school to ensure that all staff members have unfettered access to safeguarding support, should it be required. Any individual may refer to Social Care where there is suspected or actual risk of harm to a child.
- 6.7. When new staff, volunteers or regular visitors join our school they are informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place, the name of the designated safeguarding lead (and deputy/deputies) and how to share concerns with them.

## 6. Training

- 6.1. The designated safeguarding lead (and deputy/deputies) undertake Level 3 child protection training at least every two years. The Headteacher, all staff members and Local Schools Board members receive appropriate child protection training which is regularly updated and in line with advice from the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB). In addition, all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. Records of any child protection training undertaken is kept for all staff and Local Schools Board members.
- 6.2. Each school ensures that the designated safeguarding lead (and deputy) also undertakes training in inter-agency working and other matters as appropriate

## 7. Professional confidentiality

- 7.1. Confidentiality is an issue which needs to be discussed and fully understood by all those working with children, particularly in the context of child protection. A member of staff must never guarantee confidentiality to anyone about a safeguarding concern (including parents / carers or pupils) or promise to keep a secret. In accordance with statutory requirements, where there is a child protection concern, this must be reported to the designated safeguarding lead and may require further referral to and subsequent investigation by appropriate authorities.
- 7.2. Information on individual child protection cases may be shared by the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) with other relevant staff members. This will be on a 'need to know' basis only and where it is in the child's best interests to do so.

## 8. Records and information sharing

- 8.1. Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. Vine Schools Trust schools are clear about the need to record any concern held about a child or children within their school and when these records should be shared with other agencies.
- 8.2. Where there are concerns about the safety of a child, the sharing of information in a timely and effective manner between organisations can reduce the risk of harm. Whilst the Data Protection Act 2018 places duties on organisations and individuals to process personal information fairly and lawfully, it is not a barrier to sharing information where the failure to do so would result in a child or vulnerable adult being placed at risk of harm. Similarly, human rights concerns, such as respecting the right to a private and family life would not prevent sharing information where there are real safeguarding concerns. Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at risk of abuse or neglect. Generic data flows related to child protection are recorded in our Records of Processing Activity and regularly reviewed; and our online school privacy notices accurately reflect our use of data for child protection purposes.
- 8.3. Any member of staff receiving a disclosure of abuse or noticing signs or indicators of abuse, will record it as soon as possible, noting what was said or seen (if appropriate, using a body map to record), giving the date, time and location. All records will be dated and signed and will include the action taken. This is then presented to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy), who will decide on appropriate action and record this accordingly.
- 8.4. Any records related to child protection are kept on an individual child protection file for that child (which is separate to the pupil file). All child protection records are stored securely and confidentially and will be retained for 25 years after the pupil's date of birth, or until they transfer to another school / educational setting.
- 8.5. In line with statutory guidance, where a pupil transfers from our school to another school / educational setting (including colleges), their child protection records will be forwarded to the new educational setting. These will be marked 'Confidential' and for the attention of the receiving school's designated safeguarding lead, with a return address on the envelope so it can be returned to us if it goes astray. We will obtain evidence that the paperwork has been received by the new school and then destroy any copies held in our school. Where appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead may also make contact with the new educational setting in advance of the child's move there, to enable planning so appropriate support is in place when the child arrives.
- 8.6. Where a pupil joins a Vine Schools Trust school, the school will request child protection records from the previous educational establishment (if none are received).

## 9. Interagency working

- 9.1. It is the responsibility of the designated safeguarding lead to ensure that the school is represented at, and that a report is submitted to, any statutory meeting called for children on the school roll or previously known to them. Where possible and appropriate, any report will be shared in advance with the parent(s) / carer(s). The member of staff attending the meeting will be fully briefed on any issues or concerns the school has and be prepared to contribute to the discussions.
- 9.2. If a child is subject to a Care, Child Protection or a Child in Need plan, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure the child is monitored regarding their school attendance, emotional well-being, academic progress, welfare and presentation. If the school is part of the core group, the designated safeguarding lead will ensure the school is represented, provides appropriate information and contributes to the plan at these meetings. Any concerns about the Child Protection plan and / or the child's welfare will be discussed and recorded at the core group meeting, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of significant harm. In this case the designated safeguarding lead will inform the child's key worker immediately and then record that they have done so and the actions agreed.

## 10. Allegations about members of the workforce

- 10.1. All staff members are made aware of the boundaries of appropriate behaviour and conduct. These matters form part of staff induction and are outlined in the Staff Behaviour policy / Code of Conduct. All Vine Schools Trust schools works in accordance with statutory guidance and the SET procedures (ESCB, 2019) in respect of allegations against an adult working with children (in a paid or voluntary capacity).
- 10.2. The Vine Schools Trust has processes in place for reporting any concerns about a member of staff (or any adult working with children). Any concerns about the conduct of a member of staff must be referred to the Headteacher (or the Deputy Headteacher in their absence), as they have responsibility for managing employment issues. Where the allegation concerns an agency member of staff, the Headteacher (or Deputy) will liaise with the agency, while following due process.
- 10.3. Where the concern involves the headteacher, it should be reported direct to the Vine Schools Trust CEO and Chair of the Local Schools Board.
- 10.4. SET procedures (ESCB, 2019) require that, where an allegation against a member of staff is received, the Headteacher, senior named person, the CEO or the Chair of Local Schools Board must inform the duty Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in the Children's Workforce Allegations Management Team on **03330 139 797** within one working day. However, wherever possible, contact with the LADO will be made immediately as they will then advise on how to proceed and whether the matter requires Police involvement. This will include advice on speaking to pupils and parents and HR. The school does not carry out any investigation before speaking to the LADO.
- 10.5. Staffing matters are confidential, and the school operates within a statutory framework around Data Protection.
- 10.6. Reference should also be made to the Vine Schools Trust Dealing With Safeguarding Allegations Against Adults Policy

## 11. Use of reasonable force

- 11.1. The term 'reasonable force' covers a broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff to use reasonable force to safeguard children and young people, such as guiding a child to safety or breaking up a fight. 'Reasonable' means using no more force than is needed.
- 11.2. The Vine Schools Trust schools work in accordance with statutory and local guidance on the use of reasonable force (*see section 2*) and recognises that where intervention is required, it should always be considered in a safeguarding context.

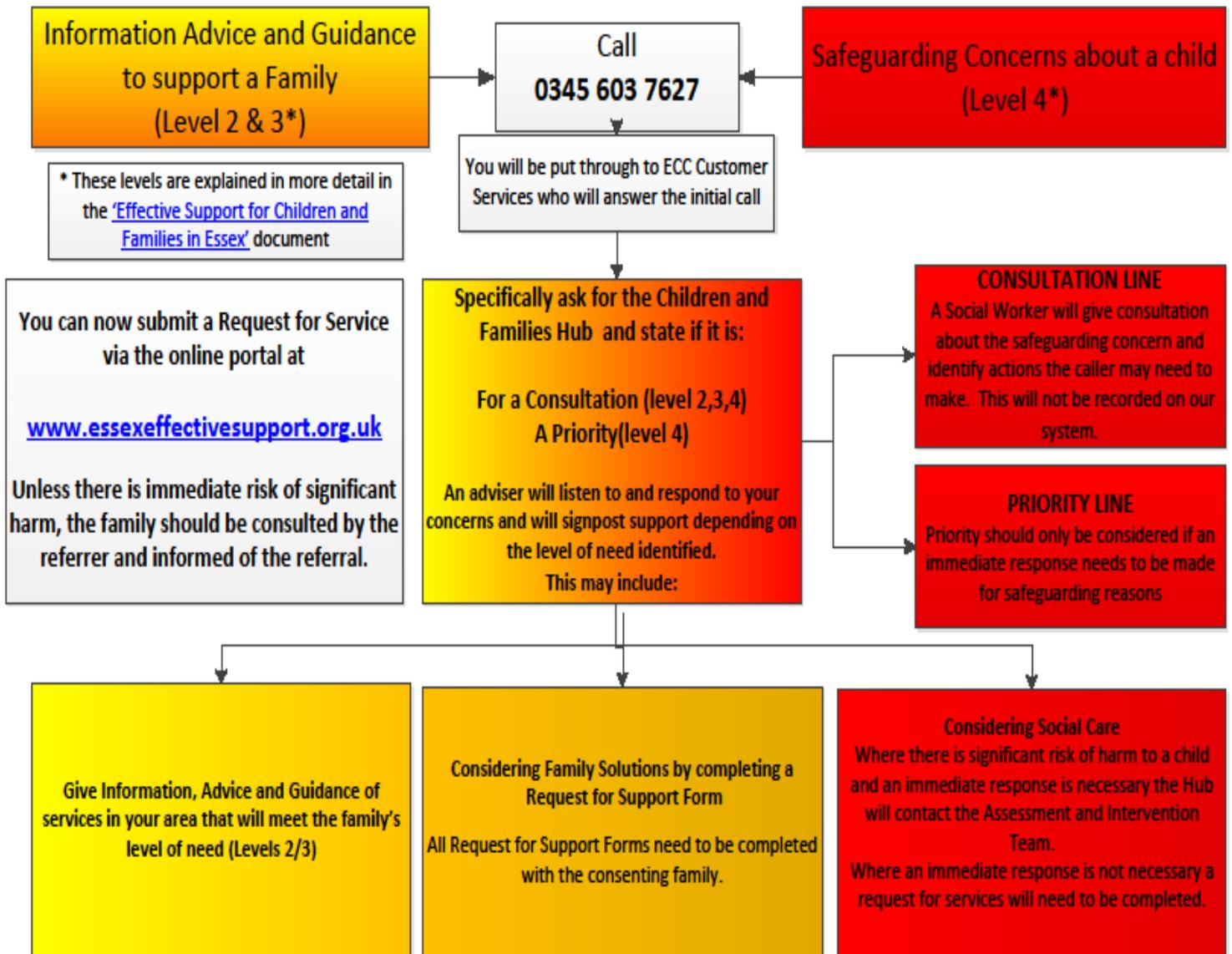
## 12. Whistleblowing

- 12.1. All members of staff and the wider school community should be able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and feel confident any concern will be taken seriously by the school leadership team. We have 'whistleblowing' procedures in place, and these are available in the school Whistleblowing Policy (S007). However, for any member of staff who feels unable to raise concerns internally, or where they feel their concerns have not been addressed, they may contact the [NSPCC whistleblowing helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/whistleblowing) on: 0800 028 0285 (line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday) or by email at: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).
- 12.2. Parents or others in the wider school community with concerns can contact the NSPCC general helpline on: 0808 800 5000 (24 hour helpline) or email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

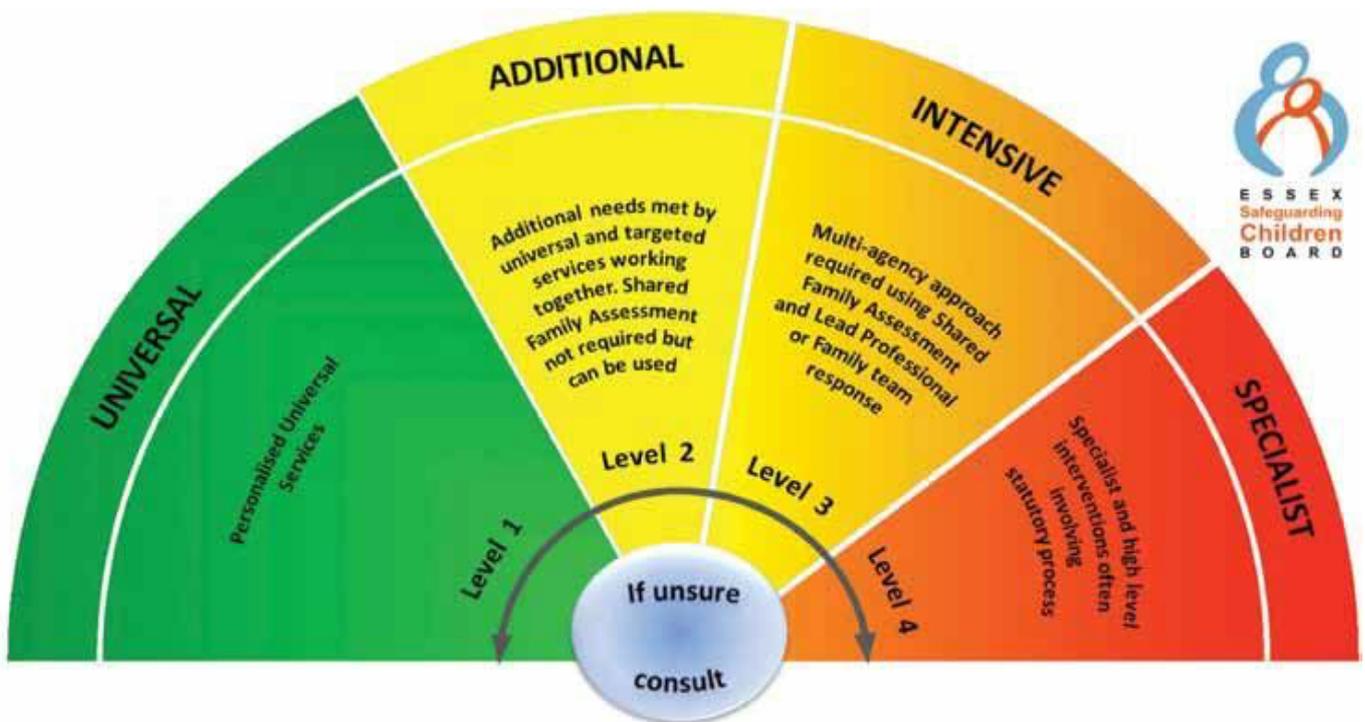
END

**APPENDIX A: Children and Families Hub flow chart**

**Children and Families Hub Partner Access Map**  
 (Mon-Thurs 8.45-5.30pm Fri 8.45-4.30pm) Out of Hours Tel no: 0345 606 1212



## Appendix B: Essex Windscreen of Need and levels of intervention



All partners working with children, young people and their families will offer support as soon as we are aware of any additional needs. We will always seek to work together to provide support to children, young people and their families at the lowest level possible in accordance with their needs

Children with **Additional** needs are best supported by those who already work with them, such as Family Hubs or schools, organising additional support with local partners as needed. When an agency is supporting these children, an Early Help Plan and a Lead Professional are helpful to share information and co-ordinate work alongside the child and family.

For children whose needs are **Intensive**, a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach is usually best, involving either an Early Help Plan or a Shared Family Assessment (SFA), with a Lead Professional to work closely with the child and family to ensure they receive all the support they require. Examples of intensive services are children’s mental health services and Family Solutions.

**Specialist** services are where the needs of the child are so great that statutory and/or specialist intervention is required to keep them safe or to ensure their continued development. Examples of specialist services are Children’s Social Care or Youth Offending Service. By working together effectively with children that have additional needs and by providing coordinated multi-disciplinary/agency support and services for those with intensive needs, we seek to prevent more children and young people requiring statutory interventions and reactive specialist services

## Appendix C: Additional safeguarding arrangements during COVID-19

7. When schools were instructed to close the Vine schools trust and each school assessed the needs of all our pupils and put in place plans to support them and their families during the summer term. These plans included an education offer and arrangements to support pupils with their safety and wellbeing. Where appropriate, the plans included actions and interventions from other agencies, as we continued to work with partners to provide an appropriate level of support. These plans were regularly reviewed to ensure they reflected current need and were updated accordingly to ensure appropriate support is in place.
8. We have now moved to full opening and our usual Child Protection Policy applies. However, as a response to COVID-19 and to ensure we are compliant with [government guidance](#) and Health and Safety law, other arrangements are in place and these have been communicated this to all parents.
9. Each Vine Schools Trust school has a robust risk assessment in place which will continue to be regularly reviewed and updated as required. This review process will consider whether our current plans and protective measures are:
  - effective
  - working as planned
  - updated appropriately considering any issues identified and changes in public health advice
4. Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there are local restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home, the DfE expects schools to be able to immediately offer access to remote education.
5. Keeping pupils and teachers safe during remote education is essential. It is especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do, including
  - sites they will be asked to use
  - school staff their child will interact with
6. Further DfE guidance for parents is available here: [support for parents and carers to keep children safe online](#). It is important that parents make the school aware of any concerns they may have about the online activity of their child, or any particular vulnerability they may have in this respect.
7. Staff are aware that children are vulnerable to being bullied or groomed for abuse or radicalisation online. Staff will be vigilant to any signs that that this may be occurring and report any concerns in the usual way.
8. If, as a result of future local or national lockdown arrangements, the school is subject to further closure, our previous arrangements (Summer 2020) for monitoring and supporting pupils will be reinstated.

## Appendix D: Details of Designated Safeguarding Leads

This is a separate page to this document and can be found on the school website Information Hub under Safeguarding.

END