

The Harmony Project Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2026

Annex B: Glossary of Terms

Abuse	A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm.
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic experiences that occur before the age of 18 and are remembered throughout adulthood. They include child maltreatment such as physical, sexual, and verbal abuse and neglect, and wider experiences of household dysfunction, such as growing up in a household affected by domestic violence, parental separation, alcohol and drug use, mental illness, or parental incarceration.
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service is a non-departmental public body set up to promote the welfare of children and families involved in family court.
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service is the name for the NHS services that assess and treat young people with emotional, behavioural, or mental health difficulties.
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation – children who are trafficked, exploited, or coerced into committing crimes.
Child	Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 defines a child as a person under the age of eighteen
CIC	Child in Care means a child that is looked after by a local authority
CIN	Child in Need means a child who is thought to need extra support or services to help them to achieve or maintain ‘a reasonable standard of health or development.’
Child Protection	Child Protection is defined in the Children Act 1989 (s.47) as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Under statutory guidance and legislation action must be taken to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare.
CPP	A Child Protection Plan will say what the specific risks are to the child and the actions that will be needed to keep the child safe.

CHISVA	A Children and Young People Independent Sexual Violence Advisor is trained and experienced to look after a child's needs following an allegation of rape or sexual assault.
CME	Child Missing Education is defined as those who are of a compulsory school age but are either not registered at a school or else not receiving education in place of a school setting.
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited they are given things like gifts, drugs, money, status, and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities.
Development	Physical, intellectual, emotional, social, or behavioural development.
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service is responsible for the processing and issuing of checks that allow recruiters to make safer decisions regarding whom they employ.
DDSL	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
DfE	Department for Education is responsible for children's services and education in England.
DA	Domestic Abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, by a partner or ex-partner or a family member or carer.
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Early Help	Means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life.
Education Setting	All schools and colleges, plus all other education settings including, but not exclusive to, funded non-maintained early years settings and work-based learning providers
EHCP	An Education Health Care Plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support
EHE	Elective Home Education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time.
EOTAS	Education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) is an education provision to meet specific needs of pupils who, for whatever reason, cannot attend a mainstream or special school. In law, local authorities are responsible for providing these services.
Emotional Abuse	The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

EPO	An Emergency Protection Order enables a child to be removed from where she/he is, or to be kept where she/he is, if this is necessary to provide immediate short-term protection.
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage is the statutory framework that sets the standards for promoting the learning, development, and safety of children from birth to five years in Ofsted registered settings.
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured, or changed, but there is no medical reason for this to be done.
FMU	Forced Marriage Unit is a joint Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Home Office unit which leads on the government's forced marriage policy, outreach, and casework.
FTE	Fixed Term Exclusions is where a child is temporarily removed from school. They can only be removed for up to 45 school days in one school year, even if they have changed school.
Harm	Ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development, including, for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. This includes all forms of abuse and neglect, female genital mutilation, or other so-called 'honour'-based abuse, forced marriage and extra-familial harms like radicalisation and sexual exploitation.
HBA	Honour Based Abuse is an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/ or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.
Health	Physical or mental health
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children and young people, and which may be harmful or abusive.
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference is a meeting that is held when agencies believe that a child may be at risk of significant harm.
Ill-Treatment	ill-treatment" includes sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

ISI	Independent Schools Inspectorate inspect against the independent school standards, which cover all aspects of school life.
KCSIE	Keeping Children Safe in Education is statutory guidance for schools, colleges, and other institutes of education.
LCSB	Local Children’s Safeguarding Boards were the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Now replaced by Safeguarding Partners.
LAC	A Looked After Child is a child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours.
LADO	A Local Authority Designated Officer provides advice and guidance to employers and other individuals/organisations who have concerns relating to an adult who works with children and young people or who is in a position of authority and having regular contact with children.
Looked after child	As defined in section 22 Children Act 1989 means a child who is subject to a care order (interim or full care order) or who is voluntarily accommodated by the Local Authority.
Low-level Concern	A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a ‘nagging doubt’ – that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and • does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.
LPS	Liberty Protection Safeguards (formally DoLS :Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards) provide protection for people aged 16 and above who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty to enable their care or treatment and lack the mental capacity to consent to their arrangements.
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements is the process through which various agencies work together to protect the public by managing the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders living in the community.
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs are co-operative arrangements formed between numerous safeguarding focused organisations, with the aim of close collaboration working to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
NICCO	National Information Centre on Children of Offenders is an information hub that provides a support service for all professionals who come into contact with the children and families of offenders.
Neglect	The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.
NRM	National Referral Mechanism is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education inspect organisations providing education, training, and care services in England to ensure a high standard for children and students.
PA	Persistence Absence is when a pupil enrolment's overall absence equates to 10 per cent or more of their possible sessions.
PEP	Personal Education Plan. All looked after children must have a personal education plan. This is part of the care plan that the local authority looking after the child must have in place and review regularly.
PEX	Permanent Exclusion is the most serious sanction a school can give if a child does something that is against the school's behaviour policy. It means that the child is no longer allowed to attend school and their name will be removed from the school roll.
Physical Abuse	A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
PPG	Pupil Premium Grant is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England.
Pupil Referral Unit	A pupil referral unit (PRU) is a type of school established by a local authority that has a duty to provide suitable education for children and young people who, by reason of illness, exclusion or otherwise, may not receive such education in a mainstream school.
RCPC	Review child protection conference brings the family and professionals working with them back together to review

	progress to date and how the plan is working, with a view to continuing to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child(ren).
RA	Risk Assessments aim to anticipate what could happen and forward plan for any sort of situation imaginable.
RUI	Released under investigation means an individual has been released from custody without charge and no obligation to return on bail to the police station for the offence for which they were questioned for.
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, and • Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
Safeguarding Partners	Safeguarding (the local authority; Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) (previously known as clinical commissioning group) for an area within the local authority; and the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area) will make arrangements to work together with appropriate relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children, including identifying and responding to their needs.
SARC’s	Sexual Assault Referral Centre’s are specialist medical and forensic services for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted.
SCR	Single Central Record/register is the central record of the safeguarding checks that have been carried out on all staff and other relevant people.
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school’s SEN policy. All mainstream schools must appoint a teacher to be their SENCo.
SEND	Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Sexual Abuse	Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact

	activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse.
Significant Harm	Section 31(10) of the Children Act 1989 states that “where the question of whether harm suffered by a child is significant turns on the child’s health or development, his health or development shall be compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child”.
TAC	Team Around The Child is a multi-disciplinary team of practitioners established on a case-by-case basis to support a child, young person or family.
TAF	Team Around The Family is an early intervention and prevention service that aims to work with families to help them identify their strengths and needs.
TRA	Teaching Regulation Agency is an executive department of the DfE that regulates teachers working in schools, including academies, independent schools, sixth form colleges, youth custody settings and children’s homes.
Virtual School Head	Section 22(3B) of the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities in England to appoint at least one person for the purpose of discharging the local authority’s duty to promote the educational achievement of its looked after children. That person (known as the virtual school head) must be an officer employed by the authority or another local authority in England
Whole-institution approach to safeguarding	This means ensuring that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront of, and underpin all relevant aspects of, process and policy development. Ultimately, all systems, processes and policies should operate with the best interests of children and learners at their core.
YOI	Young Offenders Institution is a place where offenders aged 15 to 21 may be detained and given training, instruction, and work.