



# Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

## White Spire School



**Written by:** M Bartle

**Last reviewed on:** Sept 2021

**Next review due  
by:** Sept 2022



## 1. KEY CONTACTS in school/setting

**Headteacher / Principal / senior officer:**

Name: Finlay Douglas

**Senior designated safeguarding lead:**

Name: Michelle Bartle

**Deputy designated safeguarding lead:**

Name: Finlay Douglas

**Members of safeguarding team:**

Name: Sophie Lunnon

Name: Sally Seminerio

**Designated CSE lead:**

Name: Michelle Bartle

**Safeguarding Governors**

Tanya Stevens

### Introduction

Child sexual exploitation has devastating and long lasting results for both the victims and their families.

The purpose the policy is to:

- Inform staff, parents, volunteers and governors about the school's responsibilities for protecting children.
- Enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities should be carried out.

### Definition

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where 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. (Child sexual exploitation. Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation. February 2017).

This can include:



- any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.  
(Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation. February 2017).

Child sexual exploitation is a complex form of abuse and can be difficult to identify and assess. Indicators for child sexual exploitation can be mistaken for 'normal adolescent behaviours'.

A young person might be more susceptible to child sexual exploitation if

- prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse;
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment;
- Recent bereavement or loss;
- Social isolation or social difficulties;
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality;
- Economic vulnerability;
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status;
- Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited;
- Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work;
- Having a physical or learning disability;
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories); and
- Sexual identity.



### **Child sexual exploitation can also occur without any of these vulnerabilities being present**

Any child in the community is open to child sexual exploitation, age (children between 12-15 are most at risk but children as young as 8 have been identified), gender (Most frequency observed in females but males are also at risk), ethnicity (Child sexual exploitation affects all ethnic groups) and heightened vulnerability factors.

**It is important that staff remain open to the fact that child sexual exploitation can occur without any of these risk indicators being obviously present.**

At White Spire School we ensure that:

- All staff are aware of and understand CSE indicators
- Pupils are taught about CSE and how to protect themselves and each other
- Pupils are taught about healthy ( including sexual ) relationships, peer pressure, bullying, e- safety, gang activity and how these topics can relate to CSE.
- Pupils are made aware of where they can go for support and advice

Staff have a duty to report any concerns in line with the Child Protection Policy.

### **Training**

All staff are trained annually in recognising the signs of child sexual exploitation. Staff will also have monthly in house training to provide them with the knowledge and skills to safeguard effectively.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- Child protection policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education, Dfe, 2021