



Thornhill Primary School Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy.

Date Issued	Autumn 2018
Governor Approval Date	
Date of Next Review	Autumn 2020

Introduction

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has become a growing and serious concern and is recognised as a form of child sexual abuse. This policy is a recognition of this concern and our commitment to protecting and supporting the school community and working with partner agencies to achieve this. This policy falls within the established Child Protection and Safeguarding framework that is already in place within Thornhill Primary School.

At Thornhill we strive to ensure pupils are supported with making positive choices so they can protect themselves from all potential forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. As a school we promote healthy friendships and relationships through the school ethos, school policies, pupil-staff relationships and PHSE curriculum. An awareness of the risk factors, signs and indicators of CSE is the key for all staff and how to access support and guidance.

The purpose of this policy is to create a considered and consistent approach to dealing with CSE at Thornhill Primary School.

Aims and Objectives

- To increase awareness and understanding of CSE within the school setting.
- To raise awareness of the risk factors and warning signs of CSE.
- To provide relevant information and guidance on CSE, which is accessible to staff, parents/carers students and the governing body.
- To provide a consistent approach when dealing with CSE
- To make available support for pupils, parents/carers and staff in the event of concerns arising in relation to CSE
- To enable those seeking help to feel secure and supported

Principles to keep in mind-

- Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect.

- Children and young people do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation, but do so due to coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
- Young people under 16 cannot consent to sexual activity: sexual intercourse with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape. (Sexual Offences Act 2003).
- Sexually exploited Children and young people should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
- Many sexually exploited children and young people have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices about sexual activities, and the sexual activities they are coerced into. The potential confusion should be handled with care and sensitivity by professionals.
- The primary law enforcement effort must be made against the coercers and adults who sexually exploit children and young people. In some cases, young people may themselves exploit other children or young people, and in these cases law enforcement action may be necessary.

Vulnerability factors to CSE

Children and young people are more vulnerable to abuse through sexual exploitation if they have experienced one or more of the following:

- Child sexual abuse
- Domestic violence within the family
- Family breakdown
- Physical abuse and emotional deprivation
- Bullying in or out of school
- Family involvement in sexual exploitation
- Parents with a high of level vulnerabilities (drug/alcohol, mental health issues etc)
- Drug/alcohol, mental health concerns or other difficulties for themselves.
- Being looked after in residential care
- Going missing frequently

By having regular contact, school staff are in a better position to recognise changes in behaviour and physical signs which may indicate the involvement in sexual exploitation. School staff should also be mindful of the risks posed by CSE and should remain alert to the potential for this and respond immediately.

In the event of staff identifying concerns relating to CSE, this information must be shared immediately with the DSL or Child protection Officer within the school. The concerns will be reviewed and appropriate action taken in line with the Child Protection Policies and Procedures.

CSE Support

A multi-agency approach will be adopted to ensure that holistic support is available, potentially involving partner agencies such as police, social care and any other relevant agencies.

Prevention

Staff will be made aware of this policy and the importance of ongoing training and vigilance. Early intervention is important to prevent the likelihood of sexual exploitation and abuse occurring.

The school will keep up to date with the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation and will liaise with supporting agencies such as Local Authority and partner agencies.

School level:

This will be achieved through staff briefings and ongoing training. Pupil assemblies and classrooms activities will provide information and guidance relating to CSE as well as support in school and through external agencies.

Information and guidance:

This will be provided and reinforced through class time and the PHSE curriculum. This will provide positive guidance and advice to facilitate and support healthy relationships and social development along with safety issues.

At an individual level:

Where concerns are identified or suspected (through information received or disclosed) a response will be in line with the Child Protection Policy. All concerns will be taken seriously and investigated.

It is accepted that all children and young people are potentially at risk of CSE online, therefore Thornhill Primary School has a robust internet safety policy to ensure pupils are taught to recognise online risk and who to report any concerns to.

Definition of Child Sexual Abuse on line (NSPCC)

When sexual exploitation happens on line, children and young people may be persuaded or forced to:

- Send or post sexually explicit images of themselves.
- Take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smart phone.
- Have sexual conversations by text or phone

Abusers may threaten to send images, videos or copies of conversations to the child or young person to friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activities.

At Thornhill Primary School all staff members undergo training in safeguarding children and also the prevent training both face to face and on line where appropriate. This ensures appropriate knowledge and skills are available to support the school and its pupils.

Confidentiality:

Staff are legally bound to share information if they feel a child is at risk or is suffering from significant harm, therefore complete confidentiality cannot be achieved. However we appreciate that some pupils may feel anxious about seeking help due to the concerns about sharing of information. We will always strive to share information on a “need to know” basis and manage information discreetly and sensitively. Therefore, the information will only be shared in the child or young person’s best interest.

Parental Involvement:

At Thornhill Primary School we always seek, wherever possible, to establish a positive relationship with parents/carers and work proactively to support parents and families. We employ our own Parent Support Worker to work and support families.

If a concern is raised it would be usual to contact parents/carers. In some cases this is not possible to contact them prior to sharing information with the relevant agencies. Every effort will be made to contact the parent/carer as soon as possible whilst ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the pupil. The parent/carer may be invited to a meeting with the relevant professionals where a plan may be formulated to address the concerns.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

With all child protection and safeguarding concerns within school, identification or disclosure will be recorded and securely stored. Information will be shared on a “need to know” basis to ensure the safety and well-being of the child or young person and others involved.

Any communication with home, in meetings or with the child will be recorded and the relevant agencies informed about the issues or concerns and matters discussed.

Senior staff and governors will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and agree adjustments that may be needed to address any ongoing concerns. These updates will be shared with staff, parents/carers and pupils.

How Do We Ensure That People Are Made Aware Of This Policy?

- Formal acceptance by the governing body
- This policy will be made available to staff, parents and pupils via the school website.
- Pupils will be made aware of the school policy through assemblies and the PHSE curriculum
- Pupils can talk to staff members about their concerns throughout the school day they will be offered support, advice and guidance.

September 2018