

## What School Staff Should do if a Child is in Danger or at Risk of Harm

All staff must follow the procedures set out below in the event of a safeguarding issue.

Please note – in this and subsequent sections, you should take any references to the DSL to mean “the DSL (or deputy DSL)”.

### If a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm, or in immediate danger.

If you believe a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm or is in immediate danger, tell the DSL immediately so that they can take appropriate action. A ClearCare form must also be written immediately.

See the following link to the GOV.UK web page for reporting child abuse to your local council.  
<https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>

### If a child makes a disclosure to you

If a child discloses a safeguarding issue to you, you should:

- Listen to and believe them.
- Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions
- Stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset.
- Tell the child they have done the right thing in telling you.
- Do not tell them they should have told you sooner.
- Explain what will happen next and that you will have to pass this information on.
- Do not promise to keep it a secret.
- Write up your conversation on the ClearCare safeguarding form as soon as possible in the child's own words.
- Stick to the facts, and do not put your own judgement on it
- Sign and date the write-up and pass it on to the DSL.
- Aside from these people, do not disclose the information to anyone else unless told to do so by a relevant authority involved in the safeguarding process.

Bear in mind that some children may:

- Not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected; they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.
- Feel embarrassed, humiliated, or threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability, sexual orientation and/or language barriers.

None of this should stop you from having a 'professional curiosity' and speaking to the DSL if you have concerns about a child.

You should not assume a colleague or another professional will take action and share information that might be critical in keeping children safe.

Early information sharing is vital for effective identification, assessment and allocation of appropriate service provision, whether this is when problems are first emerging, or where a child is already known to local authority children's social care (such as on a child in need or child protection plan).

You must understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the child and staff involved but also to ensure that being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

You should only discuss concerns with the designated person, head teacher or head of education. That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

**If you have concerns about a child (as opposed to believing a child is suffering or likely to suffer from harm, or is in immediate danger)**

Where possible, speak to the DSL first to agree a course of action.

If in exceptional circumstances the DSL is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Speak to a member of the senior leadership team, Head of Education and/or take advice from local authority children's social care. You can also seek advice at any time from the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. Share details of any actions you have taken with the DSL as soon as practically possible.

**Early help assessment**

If an early help assessment is appropriate, the DSL will lead on liaising with our in house Family Support Worker, who may act as the lead practitioner, and other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate.

Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an early help assessment. We will discuss and agree, with statutory safeguarding partners, levels for the different types of assessment, as part of local arrangements.

The DSL will keep the case under constant review and the school will consider a referral to local authority children's social care if the situation does not seem to be improving. Timelines of interventions will be monitored and reviewed.

The DSL will keep staff updated on a need to know basis verbally in staff meetings or via the safeguarding teams chat message.

## School Contact Details

Name	Role	Email	Mobile
Gemma Steinert	Designated Safeguarding Lead	Gemma.Steinert@five-rivers.org	07514992008
Maria Cunliffe	Acting Head Teacher/ Deputy DSL	Maria.Cunliffe@five-rivers.org	07519376344
Laura Cheetham	Head of School – River Valley/ Deputy DSL for GAC	Laura.Cheetham@five-river.org	07907864811
Matthew Palmer	Executive Headteacher	Matthew.Palmer@five-rivers.org	07920803864
Chris Sweeney	Head of Education	chris.Sweeney@five-rivers.org	07935066031
James Hall	Director of Education Services	James.Hall@five-rivers.org	07935066031
Shellie Barcroft	Education Advisor to the Board	Shellie.Barcroft@five-rivers.org	07718571525
Nicci Willock	Director of Children's Services	Nicci.Willock@five-rivers.org	01722 435763

## Authorities Contact Details

To report a concern for a child to the government in the UK, contact the NSPCC helpline at 0808 800 5000 or your local council's Children's Social Care team by finding their details on Gov.UK using a postcode: <https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>

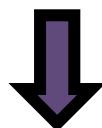
If a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

For online concerns, you can also use the **CEOP Safety Centre** at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

**The NSPCC helpline:** This is a free and confidential service available for advice and to report concerns about a child's safety or abuse. Call 0808 800 5000 or [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk).

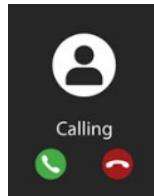
Area	Tel	Tel out of hours	Email	Website
Doncaster	01302 737777	01302 796000	dscp@doncaster.gov.uk	<b>Safeguarding concern - Child at Risk - City of Doncaster</b> Coug <a href="https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/doitonline/safeguarding-concern-child-at-risk-report-formncil">https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/doitonline/safeguarding-concern-child-at-risk-report-formncil</a>
Rotherham	01709 254924	01709 336080	YPS-SafeguardingBoard@rotherham.gov.uk	<b>Report a concern about a child or young person – Rotherham</b> <a href="https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/child-protection/report-concern-child-young-person">https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/child-protection/report-concern-child-young-person</a> <b>Metropolitan Borough Council</b>
Sheffield	0114 2734855	0114 2734855	sheffieldsafeguardinghub@sheffield.gov.uk	<b>Children's social care services   Sheffield City</b> <a href="https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/social-care/children/childrens-social-care-servicesCouncil">https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/social-care/children/childrens-social-care-servicesCouncil</a>
Barnsley	01226 77243	01226 787789	Online referral form	<b>Safe</b> <a href="https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/safeguarding-families-in-barnsley/safeguarding-children-in-barnsley/guarding-children-in-Barnsley">https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/safeguarding-families-in-barnsley/safeguarding-children-in-barnsley/guarding-children-in-Barnsley</a>

**Schools' actions when staff have concerns about a child:**



**Staff take immediate action by following their child protection policy and informing the DSL.**

**Different methods to contact the DSL:**



Microsoft Teams



**DSL immediate actions:**

- DSL to investigate the concern before the end of the school day.
- Respond accordingly by contacting relevant individuals:
  - Students
  - Parents/Carers
  - Relevant professionals working with the student/family
  - Staff members
  - Police (to report a crime)
  - Social care (to request a referral)
  - Situation-dependent, DSL may instruct staff members to contact individuals.
  - Original staff member to log the concern on the school recording system at their earliest opportunity  
and before the end of the working day.
- DSL to add any relevant information to the log.
- All actions to be overseen by higher management.

<u>Safeguarding Escalation Summary:</u>	<u>Safeguarding Monitoring Summary</u>
<p><b>If escalated to the police to report a crime, and/or social care to request a referral:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DSL to add any relevant information to the log.</li> <li>- All actions to be overseen by higher management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Worker Response (within one working day):</b></p> <p><b>1. Child in need of immediate protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emergency action taken by police, social worker, or NSPCC.</li> <li>- Referrer informed.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Section 47 enquiries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify child at risk of significant harm.</li> <li>- Possible child protection plan.</li> <li>- Referrer informed.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Section 17 enquiries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify child in need.</li> <li>- Identify appropriate support.</li> <li>- Referrer informed.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. No formal assessment required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Referrer informed.</li> <li>- Possible early help assessment by local authority or school Family Support Worker.</li> </ul>	<p><b>If NOT escalated to police or social care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DSL and staff monitor the situation appropriately.</li> <li>- Relevant individuals are kept informed.</li> <li>- Full comments added to the school recording system.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DSL adds relevant information to the log.</li> <li>- All actions overseen by higher management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff may be informed of further actions or strategies via:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teams</li> <li>- Emails</li> <li>- Face-to-face</li> <li>- Team meetings</li> <li>- Updates to child risk assessments</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible interventions include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emotional literacy support</li> <li>- Restorative conversations (staff-student or student-student)</li> <li>- Safety talks</li> <li>- Referral to/support from onsite Art Psychotherapist</li> <li>- Support/interaction with the family by the school Family Support Worker.</li> <li>- Continued reporting and investigation</li> <li>- Information sharing with relevant individuals and professionals</li> <li>- All interventions monitored on a progress tracker.</li> <li>- Weekly in-house safeguarding meeting.</li> <li>- Bi-weekly higher management safeguarding meeting.</li> <li>- Tracker reviewed at least termly.</li> <li>- Further referrals and steps considered.</li> </ul> <p><b>School always maintains a child-centred and therapeutic approach.</b></p>



**Education Safeguarding P&P Appendix  
Contact Details and Reporting concerns**