

West Bridgford Infant School



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy

Developed by	Fiona Stevens (HT)
Date of Latest Review	12 th Oct 2021
Statutory	No but part of CP policy
LA Policy	No (LA Template Used)
On Website	No but part of CP policy
Governors Committee allocated to	Standards
Date Approved	Oct 2019
Application monitored by	Fiona Stevens (HT)
Next Review date	Oct 2022

Our school adheres to the NSCB procedure in relation to child sexual exploitation. This is our policy to summarise our position.

We recognise that child sexual exploitation is a high profile issue both nationally and locally.

Please Note: In February 2017, the DfE revised the definition of CSE:-

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 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

West Bridgford Infant School recognises that child sexual exploitation can cause a great deal of harm to a child, including physically, emotionally, educationally and socially. Where it exists it can also cause harm to communities including our school.

Child sexual exploitation can happen in a number of ways to both boys and girls, for example it can happen through various social media and this can still cause significant harm. It can happen through inappropriate relationships such as older boy/girlfriends or through parties, gangs or organised abuse. Some children will be particularly vulnerable to being exploited, for example if they have had a chaotic upbringing or if they are in care or go missing, involved in gangs or being bullied. We recognise however that any child can become a target for exploitation, particularly where the internet and social media are involved. This is because the normal life events that go with being a child or teenager in today's age can be a challenge and make them susceptible to being groomed and exploited.

As a school we recognise that prevention is the best position with regard to CSE. We seek to support children to develop confidence and build resilience. We will endeavour to support their age appropriate knowledge and raise awareness and understanding of what CSE is, to understand the risks of CSE and to spot the warning signs for themselves and also their friends and peers and by doing so keep safe.

If prevention is not possible we aim to identify children who are at risk of, or being exploited very early. Early intervention is key to effectively working with the child to prevent or reduce the level of risk. Once they have been groomed some children will find it difficult to withdraw from their abusers and we need to contribute to helping to protect them. Some children feel that they are in a relationship with these people. We commit to working with our inter-agency partners to safeguard and protect children.

Much of this work will be through our programmes of personal, social and health education (PSHE) or through our Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) work.

An important part of educating our children is focussing on what is a healthy relationship and issues of consent. This will also target potential abusers at an early age with the intention of helping to shape their attitudes to others.

We want to have a culture where the welfare of children is actively promoted and staff and pupils are vigilant. As part of this children will feel listened to and safe.

Further information is available from the Department for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>