



# **St Illtyds Catholic High School**

## **Child Sexual Exploitation Policy**

**July 2024**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>
Head of Centre	David B Thomas
SLT Lead	Adam Fleet/Ann Cook
Date adopted by Governing Body	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Review date	July 27

## **Purpose:**

- In keeping with the school's values, vision and aims this policy aims to address the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- How to deal with pupils at risk of CSE and how to offer support in the short and long term.
- To provide support depending upon the individual needs of the pupil.
- To help all pupils improve their self esteem and emotional literacy.
- How to support staff members who come into contact with pupils who are at risk of CSE.
- How to prevent CSE from spreading within the school.
- To have clear guidelines for staff – who needs to be informed, when do parents and agencies need contacting.
- Education about CSE for pupils and staff.

## **What is CSE?**

### **Definition**

- Sexual exploitation is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people under the age of 18 into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection.
- The child or young person often does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship (grooming process) and therefore do not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.
- The vulnerability of the young person, along with the grooming process, means they are unable to give informed consent.

The guidance applies to male and female children up to the age of 18 years irrespective of whether they are living independently, at home, with carers, or in a residential setting. All references in this guidance to children or young people mean those under the age of 18 as defined in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

Sexual exploitation can have links to other types of crime. These include:

- Child trafficking;
- Domestic abuse;
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships;
- Grooming (including online grooming);
- Abusive images of children and their distribution;
- Drugs-related offences;
- Gang-related activity;
- Immigration-related offences; and
- Domestic servitude.

## **A proactive response**

Action to tackle CSE should be proactive, focusing on prevention, early identification and intervention, as well as on disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators. It is important for cases to be managed so that interventions to safeguard children and young people also support the gathering of evidence to increase the chance of successful criminal prosecutions of their perpetrators, thereby safeguarding potential future victims.

### **Referral**

As with all child protection concerns, all agencies should refer any concerns that a child is at risk of any form of sexual exploitation to Social Services following the process set out in Part 2 of the AWCPP. This includes all information gathered from any source including other young people.

### **Early intervention**

To help children and young people achieve good outcomes it is important to identify issues and problems early and to take prompt preventative action. Early intervention is likely to be far more effective than intervention at a later stage when the impact on the child or young person's health or development is likely to have escalated.

### **Protecting 16 and 17 year olds**

It should not be assumed that children aged 16 and 17 years are safe from CSE. A young person who has been subject to a complex pattern of life experiences including sophisticated grooming and priming processes that have brought them to a point where they are at risk of, or are abused, through CSE, are often not able to recognise the exploitative relationships and situations they are in. They may even present as being in control. The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 relate to all children aged under 18 years:

- CSE is a particularly hidden form of abuse – it takes place out of sight.
- Disclosure of this form of abuse is rare.
- Vulnerability and risk indicators of child sexual exploitation are now well established.
- A sexual exploitation risk assessment framework (SERAF) has been made available to LSCBs and provides for the identification of vulnerable and at risk children and young people.
- Early identification of vulnerable and at risk children and young people by all agencies and the provision of an appropriate, timely response is central to effective safeguarding practice.
- It is possible to reduce the risks associated with CSE at all levels of risk.

Information sharing and multi-agency working is central to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people vulnerable to, at risk of and abused through child sexual exploitation.

Staff working across agencies need to be familiar with risk indicators, assessment procedures and the contents of the **All Wales Protocol**.

## Potential indicators of child sexual exploitation

Children rarely self-report child sexual exploitation so it is important that practitioners are aware of potential indicators of risk. Child sexual exploitation is never the victim's fault.

### Vulnerability and Risk Factors associated with CSE

#### Vulnerabilities

- Learning or functioning difficulty
- Parental substance misuse
- Parental mental health difficulties
- Domestic violence within families
- Physical abuse in childhood
- Sexual abuse in childhood
- Emotional abuse in childhood
- Neglect in childhood
- Family member involved in sex work
- Breakdown of family relationships
- Bereavement
- Low self-esteem
- Isolated from peers/ social networks
- Lack of positive relationship with a protective, nurturing adult
- Experience of local authority care (Looked after child)
- Parents/ carers who do not recognise risk/ act protectively
- Living in unsuitable accommodation
- (Aged 16-17 years living independently)

#### Risks:

- Victim of sexual assault (not sexual abuse in childhood)
- Exclusion/ absence/ disengagement from school/ education/ training
- Staying out beyond the permitted time
- Concerning use of a mobile phone (e.g. having more than one phone)
- Concerning use of the internet (e.g. multiple social network accounts in different names)
- Sharing/ receiving/ possessing indecent images
- Alcohol/ drug misuse
- Multiple callers
- Expressions of despair (for example self-harm, aggressive outbursts)
- Sexually active/ STIs/ pregnancy/ termination

- Not keeping in touch with a protective adult (children aged 16-17 years living independently)

### **Significant Risk Indicators:**

- Missing overnight or longer
- Significantly older 'boyfriend' or a relationship with a controlling adult
- Getting in/ out of vehicles driven by unknown/ concerning adults
- Meeting in person people they have first 'met' on line
- Spending time in areas known for sex work/ CSE hotspots
- Peers involved in CSE
- Disclosure of a sexual/ physical assault followed by withdrawal
- Exchanging sexual acts for drugs, alcohol, money, etc.
- Coerced into sexual acts
- Having unexplained money/ mobile phone/ clothes/ drugs/ alcohol/ other items

### **Staff support and supervision**

Training should be accompanied by:

- Opportunities to learn from other practitioners and relevant continuing professional development (CPD)
- Ongoing supervision;
- A focus on reflective practice
- A recognition of the emotional impact that such work can have on staff, and access to support in order to manage this.

Creating the right environment and ensuring good quality practice supervision are essential for developing and sustaining effective practice. Supervision can help to:

- ensure progress and actions are reviewed so cases do not 'drift';
- maintain focus on the child or young person;
- test the evidence base for assessment and intervention;
- address the emotional impact of the work on the member/s of staff

### **Procedures / Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Governing Body**

The Governing Body ensure that education about CSE neither promotes or stigmatises.

#### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher will appoint a designated teacher to be responsible for CSE matters and liaise with them. This maybe the same person as the DTCP/Deputy Child Protection Officer.

Ensure that the Designated teacher receives appropriate training about CSE.

Ensure that the CSE Policy is followed by all members of staff.

### **Designated Teacher for Child Protection / Deputy Child Protection Officer**

To know when and be responsible for contacting appropriate services according to the All Wales Protocol safeguarding Children and Young People at risk of CSE.

### **DTCP / DCPO / Wellbeing Team**

Keep records of CSE incidents and concerns

Use the Safeguarding Adolescent form Exploitation (SAFE) i.e. Child Exploitation Screening Tool tool to monitor and identify vulnerability (**Appendix 1**) and The Child Exploitation Risk Ratings (**Appendix 2**).

Contact parents at the appropriate time

Know when people / services other than parents need to be informed

Know when to seek help to deal with their own feelings and distress

Liaise with local services about help available for support

Keep up-to-date with information regarding CSE

Liaise with Headteacher

### **All Staff:**

All Staff have responsibility to report any concerns regarding a child at possible risk of CSE. Where a member of staff has concerns about a child they should **immediately** verbally report their concerns to the DSP (or deputy DSP) and then follow this up in writing **via My Concern** (Safeguarding tool). The DSP (or Deputy DSP) will appropriately consider the concern and what actions, if any, should be taken.

All staff and teachers are expected to listen to pupils in emotional distress calmly and in a non-judgemental way and to reassure pupils that in order to seek health and happiness people need to know about their problems so that they can help

Guide pupils towards seeking health and happiness

Enable pupils to find places for help and support

Widen their own knowledge about CSE

Report CSE concerns to the designated staff member within the Wellbeing and Safeguarding Team

Be clear that these concerns must be reported within the expected time scale.

Not to make promises assuring confidentiality which cannot be kept

**Pupils:**

Talk to a trusted member of staff if they are in emotional distress

To talk to a trusted member off staff if they suspect a fellow pupil of being at risk of CSE and to know when confidentiality must be broken.

**Parents will be encouraged to:**

Work in in partnership with the school

**Assessment:** To use the Safeguarding Adolescent form Exploitation (SAFE) - Child Exploitation Screening Tool to monitor and identify vulnerability.

This Screening Tool should be used by all professionals working with children aged 10+. Professionals may decide it is appropriate to use the screening tool where all types of Child Exploitation is suspected i.e. (Emerging – Low, Significant - Medium and Experiencing – High).

The Screening tool will help professionals focus on the specific indicators of all types of Child Exploitation and determine whether further investigations are needed. The tool could be used at any point Child Exploitation is considered a risk.

**Important Contact numbers:**

**Referrals to Children's Services – Safeguarding at CARDIFF MULTI –AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH). Where URGENT and IMMEDIATE concerns for the safety and welfare of a child or young person during office hours telephone:**

- MASH - (unknown cases) - 029 20536490
- Children's Services for cases that are open and have an allocated social worker - 029 20536400
- Children's Services (Emergency Duty Team) After 5pm – 029 20788570
- For further information: Cardiff Think Safe Team: 02920 536 310
- CSE Police Team:
- Child Police team – 029 2022 2111
- PC Debbie Farrar – 02920338570
- Request for Police Welfare Checks: Telephone 101

**Appendix 1:**

**Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation (SAFE)**

**Child Exploitation Screening Tool**

This screening tool should be used by all professionals working with children aged 10+. Professionals may also decide it is appropriate to use the tool to screen younger children where all types of Child Exploitation is suspected (Emerging – Low /

significant – Medium / Experiencing - High).

This screening tool will help you focus on the specific indicators of all types of Child Exploitation and determine whether further investigations are needed. The tool could be used at any point Child Exploitation is considered a risk. An example of this is in discussion with the child, in supervision, discussions with parents and carers, and with other professionals.

**Young Person's details**

Child's Name:		DoB:	
Address:		Home/mobile Phone:	
GP Surgery:		School/College:	
Ethnicity		Sexual Orientation (if known)	
Religion		Language spoken (Indicate first language)	

**Referrers Details**

Name and job title of		Date completed:	
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person completing:			
Organisation:		Contact e-mail: Telephone:	

### Lead Agency Involvement

No Lead Agency	Early Help	Child in Need of Care and Support	Child Protection	Child Looked After – in or out of county placement?

Indicator	Suggested risk level	Yes/No	Possible
<b>Health Domain</b>			
<b>Physical Signs</b>			
Bruising / Unexplained Injuries – think about injuries caused through violence, A&E attendances  Threat to life			<input type="checkbox"/>
Change in Physical Appearance  Example: dishevelled appearance or a sudden change in the way Child dresses, losing or gaining weight			<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Injuries – evidence of physical or sexual assault			<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy, termination or repeat testing for sexually transmitted infections			<input type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure of sexual violence/assault even if followed by withdrawal of allegation.			<input type="checkbox"/>

Examples: Sexual assault, rape, internally inserting drugs in rectum or vagina (Plugging), indecent images shared as part of initiation, revenge or punishment			
<b>Notes</b>			
<b>Health Domain</b>			
<b>Emotional Signs</b>			
Expressions of low emotional health and wellbeing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Anger / Agression			<input type="checkbox"/>
Withdrawn			<input type="checkbox"/>
Extreme Mood Changes – <b>if other risks of CE are identified then the risk would increase</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Low self-esteem / self confidence			<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-harm indicators and/or suicidal thoughts/attempts			<input type="checkbox"/>
Disengaged from known adults and interests, an invincibility attitude or not caring about what happens to them			<input type="checkbox"/>
Young person’s sexuality increases their vulnerability as they feel unaccepted due to sexual orientation			<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the young person transitioning/historical sexual abuse?			<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of a Learning or physical disability			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Notes</b>			

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<b>Material Signs</b>			
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Use of a mobile phone that causes concern/ Multiple mobile phones, including that of burner phones			<input type="checkbox"/>
E- Safety – Secretive about mobile phone/more than one mobile phone Making/ receiving explicit videos/ sexting Late night excessive phone/ internet activity			<input type="checkbox"/>
Has extra money/new items ( Gifted electric scooter, bikes) /‘gifts’ that cannot legitimately be accounted for/received from unknown sources			<input type="checkbox"/>
New clothing / Footwear which can not be accounted for by parents/carers			
Young Person being found to have large amounts of drugs on them			<input type="checkbox"/>
Have they been to hotels, Air B&B, have they got hotel cards or keys to unknown places, with unknown adults			<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Notes</b>			

<b>Behavioural Signs</b>			
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Change in behaviour, such as secretive, anger, lifestyle, disruptive behaviour, violent behaviour			<input type="checkbox"/>
Missing episode			<input type="checkbox"/>

Persistently going missing from home or school and/or being found out of area. Think about their presentation on return, dishevelled? Hungry?			<input type="checkbox"/>
Starting or increase drug use - cannabis, Class A, Class B,			<input type="checkbox"/>
Starting or increased Alcohol use			<input type="checkbox"/>
Staying out late without reasonable explanation			<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequenting areas known for exploitation (including private dwellings) on more than one occasion			<input type="checkbox"/>
Using sexual, gang, drug related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know			<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased use of internet– use of several media sites			<input type="checkbox"/>
Young person has been coerced to take/share indecent images			<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrested/Evidence of criminality			<input type="checkbox"/>
Young person carrying / concealing weapons			<input type="checkbox"/>
Change in education attendance/Change in education provider/Missing from education			<input type="checkbox"/>
Absent from school / Non-school attendance			<input type="checkbox"/>
Exclusion from school			<input type="checkbox"/>
Glamorised view of criminality			<input type="checkbox"/>
Entering / leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults / adults of concern			<input type="checkbox"/>
described as out of control or as having risky behaviour by their family, carers or by practitioners			<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes			

<b>Family /Associate signs – vulnerability and risks</b>			
Parents / Carers not reporting young person missing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple or concerning contact (unknown adults / older young people)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Young person feels indebted to an individual or group – drug debt			<input type="checkbox"/>
Family or young person having to move or leave their home because of threats			<input type="checkbox"/>
Associates known to be involved in criminality or Organised Crime Groups (OCG's)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Living in a chaotic / dysfunctional household			<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship breakdown with family and or peers, sudden change of friendships			<input type="checkbox"/>
Association with others who have been exploited			<input type="checkbox"/>
Tartgeted threats to family / threats at home			<input type="checkbox"/>
Absence of safe trusted adult			<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Carer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Young person has limited age appropriate friendships / struggles to maintain friendships			<input type="checkbox"/>
Older 'relationship' with controlling adult.			<input type="checkbox"/>
Association with older and/or risky peers			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Notes</b>			
<b>Other</b>			

Services have not been able to engage with child			<input type="checkbox"/>
Homeless / innapropriate accomodation (prompt)			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Notes</b>			
<b>Are Parents / Carers aware of these concerns?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Does the child have awareness of these concerns?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Does the young person consent to you sharing this information?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Does the parent consent to you sharing this information?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Education	Missing	Sexual Risk Taking	Rewards	Contact with risk adults / environments	Coercion / Control	Sexual Health	Substance use	Emotional Health	E-safety
<b>Emerging</b> Current knowledge / information of a key risk	Non- school attendance /truanting	Regularly coming home late or going missing	Overtly sexualised dress, sexualised risk taking (including internet use) Meeting adults through the internet	Unaccounted for monies and/or goods	Associated with unknown adults Associating with sexually exploited young people	Reduced contact with family/ friends	Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Experimenting with drugs and alcohol	Poor self image, eating disorders, self harming	Secretive about mobile phone/more than one mobile phone Making/ receiving explicit videos/ sexting Late night excessive phone/ internet activity
<b>Significant</b> Knowledge of a key risk that the child is currently being targeted but not actively involved / exploited	Exclusion/ suspension from school, unexplained absences or lack of engagement in school/ college/ training/ work	Staying out late/ overnight with no reasonable explanation Breakdown of residential placements due to behaviour	Getting into cars with unknown adults Associating with known CSE adults Clipping (offering to have sex for money or other payment and then running before sex takes place) Having a much older boyfriend/ girlfriend	Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting peers into CSE Unaccounted for money or goods including mobile phones drugs and alcohol	Reports of being involved in CSE through being seen in hotspots Having access to premises not known to parent/carer Gang member or association	Limited contact with family/ friends Disclosure of physical sexual assault and then refusing to make or withdrawing an allegation	Multiple sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Regular use of substances/ concerns for drug/alcohol dependency	Self harming Expressions of despair	Internet grooming
<b>Experiencing</b> Knowledge of a key risk that recognises the child is currently experiencing being exploited.	Non-school attender/ Excluded Regular breakdown of school placements due to behavioural problems	Persistently running away/ Going missing from placement Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them Being moved around for sexual activity Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by worker to keep in touch	Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Child under 16 meeting different adults and engaging in sexual activity	Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting peers into CSE	Being taken to clubs and hotels by adults to engage in sexual activity Removed from known 'red-light' district by professionals due to suspected CSE	Disclosure of physical sexual assault and then refusing to make or withdrawing an allegation Abduction or forced Imprisonment Physical abuse by controlling adult Physical injury without plausible explanation Being bought/ sold/trafficked	Multiple miscarriages and/or terminations	Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use (eg. crack/heroin)	Indicators of CSE alongside serious self-harming	

**S-** Sexual Exploitation **T** – Trafficking **C-** Criminal Exploitation **M** – Missing episodes **V-** Modern Slavery