Safeguarding Glossary 2026

Breast Ironing

A harmful practice where a girl's breasts are pressed, massaged, flattened or pounded in an attempt to delay or stop breast development.

County Lines

A form of criminal exploitation where children are manipulated, coerced or forced to store, transport or sell illegal drugs as part of organised criminal networks.

Child-on-Child Abuse

Abuse that occurs between children. This can include bullying, cyberbullying, physical abuse, sexual violence, sexual harassment, initiation/hazing behaviours and online abuse.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is a form of abuse that occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into criminal activity.

Child Protection Plan (CPP)

A Child Protection Plan is put in place when a child is assessed as being at risk of significant harm and requires a multi-agency plan to keep them safe.

Child in Need Plan (CiN)

A Child in Need Plan provides additional support for a child whose health or development may be impaired without services or support from agencies.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity.

Children Missing Education (CME)

Children of compulsory school age who are not registered at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The senior member(s) of staff with lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within the school.

Current DSL Team:

Karin Tillett, Kelly Brown, Danielle Hind, Richard Harris, Selena Rossiter

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

A trained safeguarding lead who supports the DSL and acts in their absence.

Early Help

Support provided to children and families as soon as difficulties emerge, helping to prevent concerns from escalating.

Extremism

Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Mandatory Reporting Duty: Teachers have a legal duty to report known cases of FGM in under-18s directly to the police. The DSL should also be informed.

Filtering and Monitoring

Filtering: Prevents access to harmful, illegal or inappropriate online content.

Monitoring: Identifies and alerts safeguarding staff to concerning online behaviours or searches that may indicate a safeguarding risk.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

Developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children or young people that may be harmful to themselves or others.

Looked After Child (LAC)

A child who is in the care of a local authority.

Previously Looked After Child (PLAC)

A child who was previously looked after by a local authority and is now subject to an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.

Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children:
Kelly Brown (DHT)

Local Authority Designated Officer LADO

Oversees and advises on allegations made against adults working with children.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference MARAC

A meeting where agencies share information to safeguard victims of high-risk domestic abuse.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub MASH

A team of professionals from different agencies who share information and coordinate responses to safeguard children and vulnerable individuals.

Online Safety

The safeguarding of children in relation to their use of technology, including content, contact, conduct and commerce risks.

Op Encompass

A national safeguarding partnership between schools and police. Schools receive notifications when a child has been exposed to a domestic abuse incident.

Parental Responsibility (PR)

The legal rights, duties, powers and responsibilities a person has for a child and the child's property.

Prevent

Part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, aimed at preventing people from being drawn into terrorism or extremist activity.

Radicalisation

The process by which a person comes to support terrorism, extremist ideologies or acts of violence.

Serious Violence

Safeguarding concerns relating to involvement in violence, criminal gangs, weapons carrying, drug-related activity or exploitation.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Children or young people who have learning difficulties or disabilities that require additional educational provision. Children with SEND can be at greater risk of abuse and neglect.

Types of Abuse and Neglect

Physical Abuse

A form of abuse that may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child causing severe and adverse effects on their emotional development.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of health or development.

Upskirting

Taking a photograph or recording underneath a person's clothing without their permission and with the intention of viewing their genitals, buttocks or underwear, or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Crimes and behaviours disproportionately affecting women and girls, including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, coercive control and so-called honour-based abuse.

Whistleblowing

The process of raising concerns about unsafe, illegal or poor practice. All staff and volunteers should feel confident to report concerns, knowing they will be taken seriously and managed appropriately.

Additional Safeguarding Acronyms Staff Should Know

Acronym	Meaning
ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CME	Children Missing Education
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CIN	Child in Need
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
DDSL	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
KCSIE	Keeping Children Safe in Education
LAC	Looked After Child
PLAC	Previously Looked After Child
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
PREVENT	Prevent Duty
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls