



Braeburn Schools
Summum Appeto

Braeside School Safeguarding Policy

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The BRAEBURN GROUP Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

This policy applies to the High School, Primary School and EYFS.

SECTION 1: OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE BRAEBURN GROUP POLICY

This policy reflects

- PERTINENT SECTIONS OF LEGISLATION IN KENYA
- Constitution of Kenya 2010
- Article 53 (1) (c), (d), (e) and (f).
- Article 53 (2) “the best interest and welfare of a child are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.
- Basic Education Act 2013
- The requirements of the British Standards for Schools Overseas (the BSOs).

These are outlined in the Commentary on the BSO Standards (*ISI September 2018*) and follow the statutory guidance from the UK Department for Education issued under Section 175, Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the *Children Act (1989 and 2004)*

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health or development; ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Braeburn Schools are committed to the safeguarding of children and fully recognise their responsibilities for child protection and that all children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

In line with the BSOs, Braeburn schools make it requirement that staff are aware of the signs that may indicate child abuse. If signs are observed, staff are required to follow a specific procedure.

In addition, they will report if they believe a child is in physical, mental or emotional need.

All non-recent Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations will be taken seriously.

Staff may make public a disclosure in the interests of child safety at any point and may approach any of those named in individual school policies. A disclosure, often known as whistleblowing, will not entail recrimination on behalf of the staff member making such a disclosure. Further information can be found in the Whistleblowing policy. Where a member of staff feels unable to raise an issue directly with the school, they should contact the Group’s Safeguarding Governor (the Managing Director of Braeburn Schools Ltd).

The policy applies to all staff (*under a contract of employment or services*), board members and volunteers working in the school.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. If children are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action. The health, safety and wellbeing of children are of paramount importance to all staff and at all times they should consider what is in the best interests of the child.

This policy is available to all parents and is published on our website. The main elements to our policy are:

- Management of safeguarding including the appointment and identification of designated staff and training of staff.
- Procedures for dealing with concerns about a child.
- Ensuring the practice of safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children and providing appropriate induction and training. Further details can be found in the Braeburn Group Safer Recruitment Policy.
- Arrangements for handling allegations of abuse against members of staff, volunteers and the headteachers.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to help keep themselves safe and establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.
- Supporting children who have been abused, with support from outside agencies, where necessary.

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is a regional human rights treaty adopted in 1990 and which came into force in 1999. It sets out rights and defines principles for the status of children.

Kenya ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2001.

Tanzania ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2003.

This policy is informed by a set of principles that are derived from the UNCRC and The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. It includes:

1. All children have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation.
2. Each child has a fundamental right to life, survival and development. Braeburn's child-centered approach provides a basis for ensuring the realisation of children's rights to be protected from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation.
3. All children should be encouraged to fulfil their potential, and inequality and discrimination should be challenged.
4. Children will be assured the right to express their views freely and this will be given 'due weight' in accordance with their age and level of maturity. We will not discriminate against the child. The child will be treated with respect irrespective of gender, nationality or ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs, age, physical or mental health, sexual preference and gender identity, family, socio-economic and cultural background, or any history of conflict with the law.
5. Everybody has a responsibility to support the care and protection of children.
6. These particular responsibilities extend to those individuals or organisations who are associated with Braeburn. Therefore, everyone working for or associated with Braeburn must be aware of and adhere to the provisions of this policy.

SECTION 2: MANAGEMENT OF SAFEGUARDING

SECTION 2.1: THE BOARD AND SAFEGUARDING TRUSTEE

The Board has the ultimate responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and is mandated to ensure that it has adequate corporate knowledge of child protection procedures and best practice. The Safeguarding Trustee has lead responsibility for the Board's role in overseeing and managing strategic safeguarding risks. The Safeguarding Trustee attends the termly Group DSL meetings to discuss and support the schools in their work on policies or any issues of concern. The Safeguarding Trustee will satisfy themselves, on behalf of the Board, that the Safeguarding policy has been carried out effectively and in the best interest of children.

At the termly Group DSL meetings the Trustee will ensure that any changes to local/national laws and the BSOs (British Schools Overseas Standards) are reflected in policy.

Where there are concerns about the headteacher this should be referred to the Group Designated Safeguarding Lead (GDSL).

Where there are concerns about the GDSL this should be referred to the Safeguarding Trustee.

The Chair of the Board will ensure that safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda of every Board meeting.

SECTION 2.2: STAFF

We recognise that because of the day-to-day contact with children, school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. All staff should be aware of the procedures and understand their role in it. This includes identifying emerging problems, liaising with the DSL, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment. The school will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the Pastoral Curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise, and stay safe from abuse.
- Provide regular and appropriate safeguarding and child protection training in line with current advice; prevent duty guidance and online safety, which is regularly updated.
- Provide regular safeguarding and child protection updates (e.g. via email, staff meetings) as required, at least annually.

SECTION 2.3 GROUP DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (GDSL)

The Group Designated Safeguarding Lead oversees all operational safeguarding matters in the schools and advises the DSLs.

Roles and responsibilities of the GDSL:

- Ensuring that the Policy and Procedures approved by the Braeburn Group of Schools are fully implemented.
- Ensuring that he/she is suitably qualified and up to date with internationally recognised procedures and practises.
- To take responsibility for all cases referred to him/her from any Braeburn School.
- To arrange and chair the Braeburn Group DSL meetings. Meetings will be used to review Group Policies relating to Safeguarding and for sharing of new or relevant regulation and training.
- Ensuring all staff understand their roles and responsibilities, policies and reporting procedures of suspected or disclosed maltreatment, including historic disclosure.
- To oversee a safeguarding risk register which provides a high-level summary of (a) the different safeguarding risks facing our students; and (b) the risks to the school that may result

from its safeguarding work.

- To receive and review a written report from the DSLs in each school annually.
- To arrange safeguarding audits
- To report to the Board on substantial safeguarding issues.
- To receive and review a log setting out quantitative data in relation to the number of child protection related matters within the schools.

SECTION 2.4 SAFEGUARDING ADVISORS

The GDSL may consult the Group Education Managers with regards to specific safeguarding matters. Where it is felt necessary, other professionals, either within Braeburn or external, may be consulted or appointed to assist.

Safeguarding matters is a standard agenda item on the Group Management Committee weekly meetings.

SECTION 2.5: DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD ROLE (DSL)

Each school has a DSL and a Deputy DSL.

These individuals together with the Headteacher, the school nurse and school counsellor make up the Safeguarding Team and report to the Group DSL. Members of the team are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate people to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns. The DSLs have the sufficient status and authority to ensure that all concerns are progressed promptly.

When a child leaves the school, the DSL will ensure that any safeguarding concerns are shared with the appropriate persons/agencies.

The job description for the DSL and Deputies can be found in Appendix 1.

THE SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DSL

Manage Referrals

- It is the responsibility of the DSL to coordinate action within the school and liaise with other agencies.
- Immediately inform the Headteacher or, if unavailable or inappropriate, the Group Designated Safeguarding Lead, of any allegation of child abuse made against a member of staff.
- If a crime may have been committed, to report the matter to the Managing Director.
- Support staff who make referrals.
- Record and monitor information using the school's documentation.

Train Staff

- All DSLs are regularly trained, at least every two years, in child protection (Level 3) and other safeguarding issues.
- Ensure that all members of staff, including newly appointed, part-time staff and volunteers, are aware of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures.

Raise Awareness

- Ensure that all children are taught about safeguarding including online safety through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum e.g. through PSHE.

The DSL via the Headteacher will report to the Secretary of State (UK), via the DBS and/or TRA, within one month of leaving the school any person who has taught or lived in the UK (whether employed, contracted, a volunteer or student) whose services are no longer required because he or she has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences. The DBS and/or TRA will consider whether to bar the person.

SECTION 2.6 SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEES

Each campus or school will have a Safeguarding Committee. The Safeguarding Committee should meet at least once every 3 weeks to discuss any Safeguarding concerns and actions needed. The Safeguarding Committees normally consist of the DSL, Headteacher, Inclusion Leader, School Nurse and School counsellor.

SECTION 2.7 CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

The school recognises that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside the school. All staff, but especially the DSL (or deputy DSL) should be considering the context within which such incidents and/or behaviours occur. This is known as contextual safeguarding, which simply means assessments of children should consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare.

SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS

ABUSE

Abuse is defined as a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. online). They may be abused by an adult or another child or children. Abuse can take place wholly online or technology may be used to facilitate off-line abuse.

SIGNIFICANT HARM

There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes significant harm. The question of whether harm suffered by a child is significant relates specifically to the child's health and development. Their health or development should be compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child and the parenting that we would reasonably expect them to receive from their parent/carer.

SECTION 4: TYPES AND SIGNS OF ABUSE

SECTION 4.1: PHYSICAL ABUSE

May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child. For example, this may include:

- Extreme, inappropriate physical chastisement.
- Deliberate, malicious injuries.
- Restraining the child inappropriately.
- Leaving a child unsupervised which results in accidents causing harm.

SECTION 4.2: NEGLECT

Is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Neglect may involve:

- A parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).
- Failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.

- Failure to ensure adequate supervision.
- Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care.
- Neglect of a child's basic emotional needs.
- Lack of interest in the welfare of the child.
- No provision of boundaries or limits in terms of actions and behaviour.

SECTION 4.3: EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Is the persistent and frequent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. This may include:

- Over protection and limitation of exploration and learning.
- Preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.
- Causing the child frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of the child.
- Persistent/frequent ridicule, rejection, humiliation, threats.
- Living in an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.
- Being allowed no contact with other children.
- Inappropriate expectations being imposed.
- Being bullied or scapegoated.
- An atmosphere of low emotional warmth or high criticism.

SECTION 4.4: SEXUAL ABUSE

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Sexual Abuse may involve:

- Inappropriate physical contact.
- Inappropriate non-contact activities (such as involving the child in looking at pornographic material or watching sexual activities),
- Encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways,
- Grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).
- Being involved in the sexual activities of adults.
- Being touched or talked to in sexually explicit ways – directly or indirectly.
- Being spoken to about sex in ways, which are inappropriate for the child and which, seek to gratify the needs of others.

Sexual Abuse may be committed by anyone (including men, women and children).

Behavioural Indicators of abuse in children

These may include:

- Physical marks
- Self-injury

- Loss of appetite/eating concerns
- Poor hygiene
- Fears
- Worrying/unusual behaviour
- Excessive tiredness
- Inappropriate contact/talk/play/relationships
- Drawing/writing that causes concern

SECTION 4.5: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

CSE is a form of Sexual Abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

The following vulnerabilities are examples of the types of things children can experience which might make them more susceptible to child sexual exploitation:

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse.
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (for example, domestic abuse or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality).
- Recent bereavement or loss.
- Social isolation or social difficulties.
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality.
- Economic vulnerability.
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status.
- Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited.
- Family members or other connections involved in sex work.
- Having a physical or learning disability.
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories).
- Sexual identity.

Not all children with these vulnerabilities will experience child sexual exploitation. CSE can also occur without any of these vulnerabilities being present.

Behavioural indicators of CSE

These may include:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones etc. without plausible explanation.
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks.
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work.
- Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late.
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls/online communication.
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol.
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections.
- Evidence of/suspicious of physical or sexual assault.
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups.
- Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers).
- Frequenting areas known for sex work.
- Concerning use of internet or other social media.
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours.
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

SECTION 4.6: PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE

We recognise that our schools have students aged from 2 years old to 18 years old, and therefore appropriate supervision is in place, where necessary. Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as Peer-on-peer Abuse and can take many forms. This can include but is not limited to:

- Bullying.
- Physical abuse (including hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair-pulling or otherwise causing physical harm).
- Sexual abuse and emotional bullying (including cyber-bullying e.g. sexting (also known as youth-produced sexual imagery) and inappropriate ‘banter’).
- Gender-based violence (e.g. children being sexually touched / assaulted or being subject to inappropriate initiation ceremonies).
- Sexual violence (including rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault).
- Sexual harassment (e.g. sexual comments, remarks or taunting; physical behaviour and online harassment).
- Teenage-relationship abuse

Peer-on-peer Abuse can affect their social, mental and emotional health.

The prevention of Peer-on-peer Abuse is taught through the PSHE curriculum, assemblies and other whole school curricular themed days. This includes, but is not limited to, developmentally appropriate topics such as personal rights, boundaries and consent,

identification of trusted adults, online safety and digital literacy, healthy relationships and healthy sexual behaviour.

Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as ‘banter’, ‘just having a laugh’ or ‘part of growing up’. All Peer-on-peer Abuse is unacceptable and will be treated seriously.

Whenever a child may have harmed another, the school is aware of its responsibilities to both children. In instances where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm it will be referred to as a child protection concern. The school adopts a rigorous anti-bullying policy including procedures to minimise the risk of Peer-on-peer Abuse, the recording, investigating and follow up processes, as part of ensuring every individual is safe and secure.

It would be an expectation that in the event of a case of Peer-on-peer Abuse that all children involved, whether perpetrator or victim, would be treated as being ‘at risk’. Any cases deemed to be of a criminal nature may be referred to the appropriate authority.

Staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Issues to consider following a report of Peer-on-peer Abuse

The school will carefully consider any report of peer on peer abuse. The DSL is likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate person to advise on the school’s initial response.

Important considerations

- The wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Victims should be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered;
- The nature of the alleged incident(s), including: whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
- The ages and developmental stages of the children involved;
- Any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator significantly older, more mature or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?
- If the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse;
- Are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school staff?
- The proximity of the alleged perpetrator and victim during and following the investigation

SECTION 4.7: CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

The exploitation of children involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature. Child Criminal Exploitation often occurs without the child’s immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, those exploiting the child have power over them by virtue of age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, abuse, coercion and intimidation are common; involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

SECTION 4.8: DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Exposure to Domestic Abuse and/or violence can have serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impacts on children. In some cases, a child may blame itself for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic Abuse affecting children can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

SECTION 5: SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

The school is vigilant regarding specific safeguarding issues that may include but are not limited to: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Radicalisation, Bullying, Domestic Abuse, Drug Abuse, fabricated or induced illness, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, missing children, gang and youth violence, gender-based violence, honour-based violence (HBV), mental health, cyber-bullying including sexting, trafficking, water, fire, acid, road and railways and teenage relationship abuse.

SECTION 5.1: FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK, Kenya and Tanzania and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

The school recognises the statutory duty to report cases of FGM involving children. Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015), places a statutory duty upon teachers, social workers and healthcare professionals to report to the police where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

The school will seek further clarification from parents requesting extended periods of absence for their daughters and will be mindful of children who are travelling to countries where FGM is known to be practiced, again engaging with parents to seek further information as appropriate. The school will seek further expertise and support when necessary but has identified the following as of greater significance to the school community at this time: Online-Safety, Children Missing Education, preventing radicalisation and looked after children.

Further information can be found in the Group Honour-Based Violence Policy

SECTION 5.2: ONLINE-SAFETY

Children can be vulnerable to exploitation or abuse through the medium of Information Communication Technology. It is important that staff, parents and volunteers are alert to potential risks children may be exposed to, and that steps have been taken to mitigate the risk of this occurring, with specific reference to:

- **Content** – e.g. exposure to age inappropriate material, inaccurate or misleading information, socially unacceptable material (e.g. inciting violence, hate or intolerance) and illegal material (including images of child abuse).
- **Contact** – e.g. grooming using communication technologies leading to inappropriate behaviour or abuse.
- **Commerce** – e.g. exposure to inappropriate advertising, online gambling, identity theft and financial scams.
- **Culture** – e.g. bullying via websites, mobile phones or other communication technologies, or inappropriate downloading of copyright materials (i.e. music, films, images); exposure to inappropriate advertising, online gambling and financial scams.

Addressing these issues through training for staff and volunteers and awareness raising with service users, or members of the community, will be undertaken by the school. All staff should be aware of the school's policy on 'Acceptable Computer and Internet Usage' and 'Communication'

Children are taught about the dangers associated with online activities and this begins with the Nursery children (e.g. through exploration of relevant online-safety story books and age appropriate literature.)

SECTION 5.3: CHILDREN MISSING IN EDUCATION (CME)

A child who is missing from school is a potential indication of abuse and neglect. The school registers all children daily and will follow up on unaccounted absence. Parents are expected to work with the school in informing the school at the earliest opportunity and within 24 hours in writing. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in the future.

The school has a specific whole school policy for responding to a missing child and non-attendance where there are concerns for the welfare of a child at the school (The Braeburn Group Missing Child in Education Policy).

SECTION 5.4: CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (AEN) AND DISABILITIES

Children with AEN and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children, including:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- children with AEN and disabilities can be disproportionately impacted by things like:
 - Bullying without outwardly showing any signs
 - Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

SECTION 5.5: PREVENTING RADICALISATION

The risk of radicalisation is the product of a number of factors and identifying this risk requires that staff exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary. It may be combined with other vulnerabilities or may be the only risk identified. Potential indicators include:

- Use of inappropriate language.
- Possession of violent extremist literature.
- Behavioural changes.
- The expression of extremist views.
- Advocating violent actions and means.
- Association with known extremists.
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.

Training

The school provides different levels of training to develop awareness amongst staff (Prevent Training). The DSL has primary responsibility. Training is designed so that staff can identify those individuals that are vulnerable to radicalisation and know how to respond.

Risk assessments

The School will, as and when appropriate, conduct assessments of the risk to individuals. Staff with concerns about a child should raise these with the DSL who may seek further advice and conduct an assessment using the risk indicators.

Building Resilience to Radicalisation

The school promotes British Values to develop children's resilience to radicalisation. This is achieved through a broad range of curriculum topics, the Pastoral Curriculum programme and co-curricular activities as well as guest speakers.

Information Communication Technology

The school has effective internet filters on the schools network to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school. The school provides regular advice and guidance to equip children and staff to stay safe online and how to respond when they are concerned.

Further information can be found in the Group Prevent Policy.

SECTION 5.6: MENTAL HEALTH

The school will deal with any matters surrounding mental health, body image and the risks surrounding harm to themselves, as they arise. In cases of immediate concern, the School Nurse, in conjunction with the School Counsellor, will conduct a risk assessment and where appropriate will seek further expertise from a relevant agency. The school seeks to support children experiencing problems and has a counselling service available.

Further information can be found in the Group Mental Health and Well-being Policy and Group Self-harm Policy.

SECTION 5.7: STAFF ETHICAL CODE-OF-CONDUCT

Staff will ideally never place themselves with a child on their own. On occasions where this is necessary and appropriate, staff must use a location that has good visibility at a time when other adults are present and in the vicinity. This may include the occasional use of a personal car to ensure that a child is returned to school or home safely, or in an emergency to receive treatment.

Staff will ensure that physical contact is necessary, professional, culturally sensitive and appropriate at all times, (staff will have had relevant training on this). The school acknowledges that in some occasions there will be reasons where professional physical contact is appropriate such as when modelling actions in music or when coaching, offering appropriate comfort or restraint (when they are perceived to be at risk of harm to themselves or others). All staff must ensure that on these occasions contact is necessary and should make a professional

judgement as to whether the child has sufficient trust and confidence in them. If there is any doubt the member of staff should always ask.

SECTION 5.8: ONE-TO-ONE INTERACTIONS (INCLUDING, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, PERIPATETIC COACHES, MUSIC AND LEARNING SUPPORT)

It is a routine and necessary part of education for adults to work 1:1 with children in Braeburn Schools. This is particularly relevant to the delivery of individual music tuition, learning support and counselling support but is not limited to these situations.

Working 1:1 with a child has increased Safeguarding risks for both adult and child and therefore additional guidance is provided.

Anyone working 1:1 with a child in Braeburn Schools will adhere to the following:

- adults working 1:1 with children will have been through full safeguarding checks (*e.g. police clearance, reference checks and completion of all school paperwork*)
- adults will be fully aware of emergency procedures including any specifics related to the location
- managers and other staff will be made aware that 1:1 working with a child is occurring and where it is happening
- physical contact will be avoided at all times when in 1:1 situations. If physical comfort is sought by a child (it must never be initiated by an adult), the adult will not refuse but will be particularly mindful of maintaining appropriate body position and continued verbal communication with the child
- where possible (maintaining confidentiality) 1:1 work will be conducted in a public location with clear visibility and/or with doors open, windows uncovered
- any incident of concern including *an incident that could be misinterpreted* will be reported immediately to a senior member of staff and/or DSL. Any reports of this nature will be recorded, with a clear date and time, and signed
- if a child becomes physically violent and does not respond to requests to calm and/or leave the room, the adult will remove themselves from the room, call for help and remain nearby to ensure the child's (and other's) safety
- children who are given time alone (perhaps as a result of emotional needs) will be continuously monitored by an adult nearby

SECTION 5.9: TAKING OF IMAGES ON MOBILE DEVICES

When using digital images, staff inform and educate children about the risks associated with the taking, use, sharing, publication and distribution of images. In particular, they recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet: e.g. on social networking sites.

Parents are welcome to take videos and digital images of their children at school events for their own personal use to respect everyone's privacy, and in some cases protection. These

images should not be published or made publicly available on social networking sites, nor should parents comment on any activities involving other children in the digital/video images.

Staff and volunteers are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow school policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images.

Consideration is given when taking digital/video images to ensure that images do not cause embarrassment to the individual or bring the school into disrepute. Children must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission. Photographs published on the school website or elsewhere that include children will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images.

The School will avoid using children's full names anywhere on a website, social media platform or blog, in association with photographs, without parental permission.

Staff are required to read and agree to the Group Acceptable ICT Usage Policy which covers the safe use of devices and images within school or during school events.

SECTION 5.10: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN DURING WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

Work experience placement providers for our children should confirm they have policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. They must also inform the school, before the work experience takes place, if it will or is likely to involve a person (e.g. employee, manager or supervisor) being alone with the child for a substantial period of time. This is likely to include, for example, placements that involve considerable travelling on a one-to-one basis or where the placement is in an isolated environment. The school will consider the information provided by the placement provider and the specific circumstances of the work experience to determine if any checks are necessary. If so, the school will ask the placement provider to confirm that the person supervising, instructing or training the child is safe to be with children.

SECTION 5.11: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN STAYING WITH HOST FAMILIES (HOMESTAY)

For children who travel overseas as part of an exchange programme, the school engages with the relevant agencies to satisfy itself that the arrangements are appropriate and sufficient to safeguard effectively every child.

SECTION 6: PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD

SECTION 6.1: ADVICE FOR STAFF

If a member of staff or volunteer suspects or receives information that suggests a child is suffering abuse **or** seems to be in need **or** at risk, then they must immediately report the information to the relevant DSL. In the absence of the DSL, the relevant Deputy DSL must be informed.

The school strives to create the environment and means for children to raise concerns via any member of staff and has a highly developed pastoral system that includes a school nurse and a school counsellor. The School has developed experience in providing early help to support children and sign post those in need of expert support.

All staff should be aware of the signs of abuse and recognise that they may be asked to support others to take decisions. Staff are employed on the understanding that they must put the needs of children before others; they should never feel that they are being disloyal or likely to endanger their employment by passing on information.

All safeguarding records will be filed securely and separately from the child's main files with the DSLs. Notes that others might have about safeguarding must be passed to the DSLs so that a complete picture can be drawn up. When a child leaves to go to a known different school or college, the child's safeguarding records may be shared where appropriate. It is the responsibility of DSLs as part of their role in promoting the safety and welfare of children to try and find out the name of the future school and to make contact with the DSL if he/she exists, where applicable.

SECTION 6.2: HANDLING A DISCLOSURE/ALLEGATION FROM A CHILD

If a child volunteers information about abuse to a member of staff, it may sometimes be done obliquely rather than directly. An abused child is likely to be under severe emotional stress and the staff member may be the only adult whom the child is prepared to trust. When information is offered in confidence, the member of staff will need to explain with sensitivity, whilst retaining the child's trust, that early action/help may be required, that other adults will need to be informed and therefore that complete confidentiality cannot be honoured as this may ultimately not be in the best interests of the child. There must be no allocation of blame and there can be no promise that events will immediately become better.

Staff need to be aware that the most important aspect of their response to a child is willingness to listen and to take seriously what the child is saying, without asking leading questions or making any assumptions (e.g. about who has abused the child) which could later be interpreted as leading the child if criminal proceedings were to follow. If a child should tell the full story of what has happened, he/she should not be asked to repeat this at subsequent interviews. The member of staff should, within one working day, make a written note of the discussion, recording date, place and names of anyone else present, and using the words of the child where they are remembered. These details should be given as soon as possible to the school's DSL.

Key points:

- Do not discuss the child or your suspicions with any other member of staff, except the DSL or relevant Deputy DSL.
- Do not ask leading questions.
- Remain calm and observe the child.
- Record confidentially the date, time, observations of behaviour/appearance without interpretation, the actual words spoken by the child, actions taken (if any) and your own name and signature. The DSL and the member of staff recording the disclosure should sign as soon as possible.
- Discussions about the referral including any decisions made and the reasons for these should be recorded in writing. If in doubt about recording requirement, staff should discuss with the DSL.
- The DSL may check with parents for an explanation of unexplained bruises, marks or changes of behaviour.
- Where evidence suggests physical abuse or sexual abuse the parents should not be approached at this stage.
- The DSL will endeavour to (without delay) establish whether the child has suffered or is at risk of serious suffering. DSLs should at all times endeavour to include parents in any conversations, unless there is a serious risk to the child of doing so.
- The action taken by the DSL should be fully recorded and whenever appropriate discussed with the relevant members of the safeguarding team.

SECTION 6.3: ACTION WHEN A CHILD HAS SUFFERED OR IS LIKELY TO SUFFER HARM

- Seek help early.
- Sharing/recording concerns - an individual with concerns about a child shares these with the DSL who records them.

SECTION 6.4: WHAT TO DO IF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING INDECENT IMAGES OF CHILDREN INCLUDING 'SEXTING' COMES TO YOUR ATTENTION.

- Report it to your DSL or Deputy DSL immediately.
- Never view, download or share the imagery yourself, or ask a child to share or download – this is illegal.
- If you have already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has shown it to you before you could ask them not to), report this to the DSL.
- Do not delete the imagery or ask the child to delete it.
- Do not ask the child/ren who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL.
- Do not share information about the incident to other members of staff, the child/ren it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers.
- Do not say or do anything to blame or shame any child/ren involved.
- Do explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL.

SECTION 6.5: WHAT SCHOOL STAFF SHOULD DO IF THEY HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT ANOTHER STAFF MEMBER

If staff members have concerns about another staff member then this should be referred to the Headteacher or DSL. Where there are concerns about the DSL this should be reported to the Headteacher or DSG. Where there are concerns about the Head this should be referred to the DSG without the Head or DSL being informed.

More information can be found in the Group Whistle Blowing Policy and Group Complaints' Policy.

SECTION 7: RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The school has a rigorous recruitment process that is set out in the Group Safer Recruitment Policy and strives to establish a culture of safe recruitment. Application packs for jobs at Braeburn schools, and information about vacancies on the school's website, make explicit reference to the commitment of the organisation to Safeguarding, including:

- Intention to seek enhanced DBS disclosures and checks on prohibition orders for applicants who have lived or worked in the UK.
- Clear statements in the Job Description that explicitly reference the individual's safeguarding responsibilities.
- Providing information about Safeguarding Policy and practices to applicants.

Those involved in the selection process will fulfil the following for the successful candidate:

- Verify the candidate's identity.
- Obtain a CRB check form the DIC for those who live or work in Kenya) and/or appropriate checks for those who have worked overseas.
- Seek a self-declaration of medical and physical fitness to work with children.
- Always use application forms (CVs are not accepted by themselves) for paid roles.
- A minimum of two interviewers to look for any gaps in employment history and explore these gaps during interview, one of whom, at least, will be trained in safer recruitment. A written note will be made on the application form once reasons for gaps have been established.
- Ensure at least one reference is from a previous employer and specifically ask if there have been any concerns or allegations about the applicant's behaviour and attitudes towards children, any disciplinary action, and confirmation of the applicant's responsibilities. Compare this information with that provided by the applicant. Any inconsistencies or concerns regarding the information provided in a personal reference must be followed up directly with the referee.
- Check all references by a follow-up phone call to the referees.
- Check and confirm professional qualifications, as appropriate.

- Verify the candidate’s right to work in Kenya.
- Seek to explore the applicant’s attitudes towards children and young people, their motivation for pursuing the role, and managing boundaries, at interview.
- Always ensure that any other uncertainty or inconsistency about the information provided about the applicant is followed up and resolved.
- Record details of the successful candidates on the school’s single centralised register.

SECTION 7.1: PROHIBITION ORDERS AND THOSE INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP OF THE SCHOOL

Under the revised BSOs (2018) the school will conduct checks for teacher prohibition orders issued by the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) on all appointments to teaching posts including those made since 1 April 2012 for those who have lived or worked in the UK.

The revised standards also require that checks be made for the existence of directions made by the Secretary of State under s.128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 barring individuals from taking part in the management of an independent school. In the case of individuals involved with the management and leadership of Braeburn Schools (as stipulated below), they will be checked via the TRA Prohibition list.

The scope of the barring directions covers membership of the Board and all staff positions as follows: Head, any teaching positions on the senior leadership team and any teaching positions which carry a department headship. Other teaching posts with additional responsibilities do not count as ‘taking part in management.’ For non-teaching staff, only posts which are part of the senior leadership team, namely the Bursar, are checked. All employed school staff are regarded as being in ‘regulated activity’ for the purposes of these checks.

SECTION 8: INDUCTION AND TRAINING

All staff receive induction that includes advice on safeguarding children and themselves. They will be informed of the names and contact details of the DSL within the school. The school has a Professional Code of Conduct for both teaching and support staff that provides clear advice on a range of matters including one to one teaching, transport and communication with children.

Training in child protection is an important part of the induction process and every new member of staff, including part-timers, volunteers, temporary, visiting and contract staff working in School, should be familiar with the School’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and accept the legal and moral responsibilities placed upon them, and take necessary action to ensure child welfare and protection. To assist them they receive appropriate training on their responsibilities, in being alert to the signs of abuse and bullying and on the procedures for recording and referring any concerns to the DSL.

Before new staff and volunteers join the school they are required to read and sign the School's Safeguarding Policy, the Acceptable Use of ICT Policy, the Staff Code of Conduct, Behaviour Policy and the Anti-Bullying Policy.

All contractors and casual workers on site are supervised appropriately in accordance with the relevant site security procedures. Further details of checks and supervision are available in the Group Safer Recruitment Policy.

SECTION 9: INFORMATION ABOUT, OR ALLEGATION OF, ABUSE BY A STAFF MEMBER, THE DSL, THE HEADTEACHER OR VOLUNTEERS.

If an allegation is made against a member of staff, the DSL, the deputy DSL, the Headteacher or volunteer the quick resolution of that allegation is a clear priority to the benefit of all concerned.

SECTION 9.1: INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The procedures for dealing with an allegation will be applied with common sense and judgement. On receipt of an allegation:

- The headteacher will, without delay and within 24 hours, have an initial discussion with the DSG. Where there are concerns about the DSL this should be reported to the headteacher. Where there are concerns about the headteacher this should be referred to the DSG.
- The headteacher (or the DSG if the allegation is related to the headteacher) will, within one working day, notify the accused person providing as much detail as possible at that time. Where a strategy discussion is needed or there is involvement of the police then the headteacher (or the DSG if the allegation is related to the headteacher) will need to consult with authorities to agree the next stages before notifying the member of staff.

At the initial strategy discussion, the options open to the school depend on the nature of the evidence available and nature of the allegation but range from no further action to dismissal. In some cases, it may be appropriate to appoint an independent investigator.

The following definitions are used when determining the outcome of allegation investigations:

- **Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation.
- **Malicious:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive.
- **False:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation.

- **Unsubstantiated:** there is insufficient evidence either to prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence.
- **Unfounded:** to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made.

SECTION 9.2: SUPPORTING THOSE INVOLVED:

Parents and children

The school will support the parents and children involved by:

- Informing the parents of a child involved as soon as possible, if they do not already know of it, subject to the guidance provided by the relevant authorities.
- Keeping parents informed of progress (including updates when there is no progress to report to ensure contact is maintained) and told the outcome. The outcome of any disciplinary process will be shared in confidence.
- Provide support for any child who may have suffered significant harm.

Allegations that are found to have been malicious will be removed from personnel records and any that are false, unsubstantiated, unfounded or malicious will not be included in employer references. Allegations will be recorded with a summary of the allegation, details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved, and a note of any action taken and decisions reached. A copy will be provided to the person concerned.

SECTION 9.3: MANAGING THE SITUATION AND EXIT ARRANGEMENT

If the accused person resigns, this will not prevent an allegation being followed up in accordance with the guidance.

Settlement agreements (sometimes referred to as compromise agreements), by which a person agrees to resign if the employer agrees not to pursue disciplinary action, and both parties agree a form of words to be used in any future reference, will not be used in cases of refusal to cooperate before the person's notice period expires. Such an agreement will not prevent a thorough police investigation where that is appropriate.

SECTION 10: CONCERNS REGARDING SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES WITHIN THE SCHOOL AND WHISTLEBLOWING

Staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's safeguarding regime, the headteacher or DSL. Where a staff member feels unable to raise the issue directly in this way or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, they are advised to consult the school's Whistleblowing Policy for further advice and avenues for referral.

Relevant Group Policies: (These policies are available on request from the school)

- Acceptable computer and internet usage
- Safer Recruitment
- Communication
- Data Protection
- Missing Child in Education
- Whistleblowing
- Health and Safety
- Trips
- Honour-Based Violence
- Prevent
- Mental health and Well-being
- Self-harm
- Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
- Risk Assessment for Managing Harmful Behaviour of Children

The school will have policies which....

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Supervision Policy
- Professional Code of Conduct for Staff

Appendix 1 Role and Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Ensuring that the Policy and Procedures approved by the Braeburn Group of Schools are fully implemented.
- Ensuring that he/she is suitable qualified and up to date with internationally recognised procedures and practises.
- Ensuring that the safeguarding committee members are suitable qualified and up to date with internationally recognised procedures and practises.
- Ensure that he/she is given significant prominence in the school community.
- Ensuring that MoE guidance is followed to ensure safe staff recruitment and that adequate staff checks and records are maintained.
- To chair and minute regular meetings of the Safeguarding Committee, at least once per half-term.
- To provide a written report annually and provide quantitative data in relation to the number of child protection related matters within the school to the GDSL.

Appendix 2 Roles and Responsibilities of the Group Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Ensuring that the Policy and Procedures approved by the Braeburn Group of Schools are fully implemented.
- Ensuring that he/she is suitable qualified and up to date with internationally recognised procedures and practises.
- To take responsibility of all cases referred to him/her from any Braeburn School.
- To arrange and chair the Braeburn Group DSL meetings. Meetings will be used to review Group Policies relating to Safeguarding and for sharing of new or relevant regulation and training.
- Ensuring all staff understand their roles and responsibilities, policies and reporting procedures of suspected or disclosed maltreatment, including historic disclosure.
- To oversee a safeguarding risk register which provides a high-level summary of (a) the different safeguarding risks facing our students; and (b) the risks to the school that may result from its safeguarding work.
- To receive and review a written report from the DSLs in each school annually.
- To arrange safeguarding audits
- To report to the Board on substantial safeguarding issues.
- To receive and review a log setting out quantitative data in relation to the number of child protection related matters within the schools.

GLOSSARY

AEN - Additional Educational Needs

BSO - British Schools Overseas

CME - Children Missing Education

CCE - Child Criminal Exploitation

CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation

DCI - Director of Criminal Investigations

DBS - Disclosure and Barring Service

DSG - Designated Safeguarding Governor

DSL - Designated Safeguarding Lead

FGM - Female Genital Mutilation

GBV - Gender-based Violence

HBV - Honour-based Violence

ISI - Independent Schools Inspectorate

MoE- Ministry of Education

TRA - Teaching Regulation Agency

UK - United Kingdom

SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Grooming - prepare (a child) for a meeting, especially via an Internet chat room, with the intention of committing a sexual or criminal offence.

Young Person - in UK law a young person is defined as someone under the age of 25