

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

The purpose of this document is to assist all employees, tutors, contractors and associates in safeguarding and protecting children who are at risk of abuse or neglect and promoting their well-being.

At Tutor My Kids we are committed to safeguarding children and young people and we expect everyone who works with Tutor My Kids to share this commitment. Adults at Tutor My Kids take all welfare concerns seriously and encourage children and young people to talk to us about anything that worries them.

This policy and procedures should be read in conjunction with

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Tutor My Kids Code of Conduct
- Tutor My Kids Privacy Policy
- Tutor My Kids Online Tutoring Policy

The safeguarding of children is everyone's business and Tutor My Kids have a responsibility under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to ensure that its functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

This includes:

Preventing the impairment of children's health or development.

Protecting children from maltreatment.

Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

The Children Act 1989 defines a child as being up to the age of 18 years; it also defines significant harm and the roles and responsibilities of Children's Social Care and the Police.

### **Legislation related to safeguarding in Tutor My Kids**

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022

The Children Act 1989 and 2004

Education Act 2002 and 2011 The Education (Health Standards) (England) Regulations 2003

The Further Education (Providers of Education) (England) (Regulations) 2006

The Children and Families Act 2014

## **Context**

The content of this policy is applicable to all employees, tutors, contractors and associates and the Directors of Tutor My Kids. The employees, tutors, contractors and associates and Directors of Tutor My Kids recognise the contribution it makes to safeguarding children. We recognise that all employees, tutors, contractors and associates have an active part to play in protecting children from harm. We believe that Tutor My Kids should contribute to a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.

## **Aims of this policy:**

- To support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence.
- To raise the awareness of tutors and non-teaching employees, contractors and associates of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse. This is achieved through induction, training, policy, procedures and a code of conduct for employees, tutors, contractors and associates.
- To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm.
- To support pupils who have suffered abuse in accordance with their agreed Child Protection Plan.
- To emphasise the need for good levels of communication among all employees, tutors, contractors and associates.
- To follow the procedures for recruitment and selection ensuring that all adults within Tutor My Kids who have access to children have been checked as to their suitability and have a current enhanced DBS in place.
- To set out a structured procedure within Tutor My Kids in cases of suspected abuse.
- To share information about child protection and good practice with children, parents/ carers, employees, tutors, contractors and associates.
- To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Social Care, sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents, carers and children appropriately.
- To ensure all employees, tutors, contractors and associates are aware of Tutor My Kids Code of Conduct.
- To provide effective management for employees, tutors, contractors and associates through support, supervision and training.

## **Equality**

Some children's circumstances mean they are more vulnerable to abuse and/or less able to access services. These children often require a high degree of awareness and co-operation among professionals recognising and identifying their needs and acting to meet those needs.

## **Significant Harm**

There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes significant harm. Consideration of the severity of ill-treatment may include the degree and the extent of physical harm; the duration and frequency of abuse and neglect; the extent of premeditation; the presence

or degree of threat, coercion, sadism, and bizarre or unusual elements. Each of these elements has been associated with more severe effects on the child. Sometimes, a single traumatic event may constitute significant harm (eg. a violent assault, suffocation or poisoning). More often, significant harm is a compilation of significant events, both acute and longstanding which interrupt, change or damage the child's physical and psychological development. Some children live in family and social circumstances where their health and development are neglected. For them, it is the corrosiveness of long-term emotional, physical or sexual abuse that causes impairment to the extent of constituting significant harm.

It is acknowledged that a child can be abused, harmed or neglected in a family, institution or community setting or online by someone known to them, or less commonly, by a stranger; this includes someone in a position of trust such as a teacher or other professional.

Safeguarding and the promotion of a child's welfare covers all aspects of the child's life and Tutor My Kids is committed to ensuring that all its actions in respect of a child are compatible with this aim. If there are concerns about a child's welfare that do not meet the thresholds of child abuse Tutor My Kids will consider whether the Early Help approach should be considered. Early identification of concerns and the use of Early Help to develop a multi-agency plan for the child can reduce the risk of subsequent abuse.

### **Types of abuse and neglect and possible signs and symptoms**

These definitions are from "Working together to safeguard children" and "Keeping Children Safe in Education".

**Abuse is:** 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. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

**Possible Signs & Symptoms of Abuse** may or may not be indicators that abuse has taken place but the possibility should be considered. Guidance on recognising signs & symptoms of abuse can be found in *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. Students with learning difficulties often exhibit some of these signs which are not necessarily signs of abuse but symptoms of their condition. It must also be remembered that disabled children are three times more likely to experience abuse or neglect than their non-disabled peers.

**Physical abuse;** a form of abuse which 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 or deliberately induces illness in a child.

### **Signs or symptoms**

Unexplained injuries, bites, bruises or burns, particularly if they are recurrent

Improbable excuses given to explain injuries

Refusal to discuss the causes of injuries

Untreated injuries

Disclosure of punishment which appears excessive

Withdrawal from physical contact/aggressive behaviour

Arms & legs kept covered in hot weather (excluding reasons of cultural dress)

Fear of returning home

Fear of medical help

Self-destructive tendency

Running away

**Emotional abuse;** the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying / online bullying), causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children including forced marriage. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child although it may occur alone.

### **Signs and symptoms**

- Physical, mental, emotional or developmental delay
- Domestic violence
- Disclosure of punishment which appears excessive
- Over-reaction to making mistakes or fear of punishment
- Continual self-deprecation
- Sudden speech disorders
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate responses to painful situations
- Neurotic behaviours
- Self-harm
- Fear of parents being contacted
- Extremes of passivity or aggression
- Drug or solvent abuse
- Running away
- Compulsive stealing, scavenging

**Sexual abuse;** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). All sexual exploitation is abusive.

### **Signs and symptoms**

- Sudden changes in behaviour
- Displays of affection which are inappropriate
- Alleged promiscuity or sexualised behaviour
- Fear of undressing
- Regression to younger behaviour
- Inappropriate internet use and possible 'grooming' concerns
- Genital itching or other genital/anal pain/injury
- Distrust of familiar adult
- Unexplained gifts of money, mobile phones etc.
- Depression and withdrawal
- Apparent secrecy about social activities or the identity of "special friends"

Wetting or soiling, day and night  
Sleep disturbances or nightmares  
Chronic illness, especially throat infections and sexually transmitted disease

**Neglect;** 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 or 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 and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### **Signs and symptoms**

Constant hunger  
Poor personal hygiene  
Constant tiredness  
Poor state of clothing  
Frequent lateness or non-attendance for tuition  
Untreated medical problems or unmet special needs  
Low self-esteem  
Neurotic behaviour  
Poor social relationships  
Deterioration in attainment  
Running away  
Compulsive stealing or scavenging

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);** involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. It involves an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. However, it is important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Employees, tutors, contractors and associates should also be aware that many children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation do not recognise themselves as such.

There are three main types of child sexual exploitation:

- **Inappropriate relationships:**  
Usually involves one abuser who has inappropriate power – physical, emotional or financial – or control over a young person. The young person may believe they have a genuine friendship or loving relationship with their abuser.
- **Boyfriend:**  
Abuser grooms victim by striking up a normal relationship with them, giving them gifts and

meeting up. A seemingly consensual sexual relationship develops but later turns abusive. Victims are required to attend parties and sleep with multiple men and threatened with violence if they try to seek help.

- Organised exploitation and trafficking:  
Victims are trafficked through criminal networks, often between towns and cities and forced or coerced into sex with multiple men. They may also be used to recruit new victims. This serious organised activity can involve the buying and selling of young people.

### **Signs and Symptoms**

Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late  
Regularly missing tuition or not taking part in tuition  
Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions  
Associating with other young people involved in exploitation  
Having older boyfriends or girlfriends  
Suffering from sexually transmitted infections  
Mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing  
Drug and alcohol misuse  
Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour

### **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Female genital mutilation refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK. It typically takes place between birth and around 15 years old but it is believed that the majority of cases happen between the ages of 5 and 8.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 sets out a duty on professionals (including teachers) to notify police when they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. This will usually come from a disclosure. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, concerns about FGM should be taken to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, rather than the police. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There is a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM, which individually may not indicate risk but if there are two or more indicators present this could signal a risk to the child or young person. Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Professionals should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject.

### **Signs, Symptoms and indicators**

Low level of integration into UK society  
Mother or a sister who has undergone FGM  
Visiting female elder from the country of origin  
Being taken on a long holiday to the country of origin  
Talk about a 'special' procedure to become a woman  
Indications that FGM may have already taken place may include:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
- Frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
- Prolonged or repeated absences from tuition, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl's return.
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.

- Confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- Talking about pain or discomfort between the legs.

### **Prevent, Radicalisation and Extremism:**

As part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Tutor My Kids has a duty to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism'. This has become known as the 'Prevent Duty'. Where staff are concerned that children and young people are developing extremist views or show signs of becoming radicalized, they should discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead has received training about the Prevent Duty and tackling extremism and is able to support staff with any concerns they may have.

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. Teaching Tutor My Kids core values alongside the fundamental British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

### **Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism**

Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies  
 Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature  
 Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships  
 Secretive behaviour  
 Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality  
 Graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes  
 Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others  
 Verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views  
 Advocating violence towards others

### **Sexting:**

The term 'sexting' relates to the sending of indecent images, videos and/or written messages with sexually explicit content. These are created and sent electronically. They are often 'shared' via social networking sites and instant messaging services. Tutor My Kids will not tolerate sexting; it is inappropriate and illegal amongst young people and can have extremely damaging and long-lasting consequences. Sexting is unacceptable behaviour. The misuse of electronic communication, such as sexting, inappropriate comments on Facebook, being the object of cyber-bullying and online grooming are all potential safeguarding concerns. We have a responsibility to work with parents and carers in ensuring that all pupils are fully aware of the dangers and possible repercussions of sexting. Students mobile phones must be switched off during teaching sessions.

### **Procedures**

Tutor My Kids procedures for safeguarding children will be in line with Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Alastair Dixon  
 The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Sue Carpenter

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has received appropriate training and undertakes formal training at least every two years. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will keep themselves up to date throughout the year.

All Tutor My Kids tutors will have access to regular safeguarding training as appropriate.

In the event that there are concerns about a child the Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the local safeguarding board (or DSL in school as appropriate) to inform their decision making process with regard to the presenting of safeguarding concerns.

The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of the children and confirms a duty to make enquiries to decide whether action should be taken to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child who is suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm.

All employees, tutors, contractors and associates will develop their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse and their responsibility for referring any concerns.

The induction of new employees, tutors, contractors and associates will include Safeguarding and Code of Conduct training.

All employees, tutors, contractors and associates will read Keeping Children safe in Education, section 1, and Appendix A and B. Tutor My Kids will support employees, tutors, contractors and associates in understanding this key document and implementing it in their practice.

All employees, tutors, contractors and associates will know how to respond to a pupil who discloses abuse. It is vital that our actions do not abuse the child further or prejudice further enquiries:

- Stay calm, listen to the child, if you are shocked by what is being said try not to show it.
- Do not promise confidentiality; you can however promise privacy, reassure the child they have done the right thing, explain who you will have to tell and why.
- If a child is making a disclosure the pace should be dictated by the child, do not ask leading questions for example, 'what did they do next?' It is our role to listen not to investigate. Use open questions such as 'is there anything else you wish to tell me'.
- Accept what they are telling you, do not make judgements.
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you. Do acknowledge how hard it was for them to tell you.
- Don't criticise the perpetrator, this may be someone they love.
- Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared.
- All employees, tutors, contractors and associates must report all information immediately, on the same working day, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or in their absence to the Safeguarding Deputy.
- The conduct of employees, tutors, contractors and associates when in a 1:1 situation with a child is managed in a way that would not lead any reasonable person to question their motives or intentions. All employees, tutors, contractors and associates must ensure that their behaviour and actions do not place children or themselves at risk of harm or of allegations of harm to children. All employees, tutors, contractors and associates must be aware of Tutor My Kids Whistleblowing Policy and how to access it.
- All parents/carers are made aware of the possibilities of employees, tutors, contractors and associates actions with regard to child protection procedures.



- All parents, as part of the child induction process, will be made aware of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which is available on request.
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures are reviewed annually.

### **What to do if you suspect that abuse may have occurred**

You must report the concerns immediately, on the same working day, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or their deputies. You may report verbally, but this must be followed up by a written account on the same working day.

#### **The role of the Designated Lead is to:**

- Obtain information from employees, tutors, contractors, associates, children or parents and carers who have child protection concerns and to record this information.
- Assess the information quickly and carefully and ask for further information as appropriate.
- Consult with the LADO.
- The Designated Lead should make a referral to social care / police without delay if it is agreed during the consultation or if there is an immediate risk to the child.
- The referral should be made to the local authority safeguarding team in which the child lives.
- Concerns will not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above.
- It is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to the child protection agencies. If for any reason you believe that the Designated Lead has not responded appropriately to your concerns, it is then your responsibility to contact the local authority safeguarding team directly.

#### **Responsibilities of DSL**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or those deputising for them, is responsible for:

- Adhering to procedures with regard to referring a child if there are concerns about possible abuse.
- Keeping full written chronological records of Tutor My Kids concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral.
- Ensuring that all such records are kept confidentially and securely.
- Checking the attendance of children subject to a Child Protection Plan on daily basis.
- Ensuring that where any child currently who is subject to a Child Protection Plan leaves, their information is transferred to the new education placement immediately and that the child's social worker is informed. A digital copy of the child's information will be retained by Tutor My Kids.

#### **Handling sexting and nude selfie incidents**

UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) will be used to triage concerns. There should always be an initial review meeting, led by the DSL. This should consider the initial evidence and aim to establish: *'Whether there is an immediate risk to a young person or young people'*

When assessing the risks the following should be considered:

- Why was the imagery shared? Was the young person coerced or put under pressure to produce the imagery?
- Who has shared the imagery? Where has the imagery been shared? Was it shared and received with the knowledge of the pupil in the imagery?
- Are there any adults involved in the sharing of imagery?
- Does the young person understand consent?
- Has the young person taken part in this kind of activity before?
- If a referral should be made to the police and/or children's social care.
- If it is necessary to view the imagery in order to safeguard the young person – in most cases, imagery should not be viewed.
- What further information is required to decide on the best response.
- Any relevant facts about the young people involved which would influence risk assessment.
- Whether to contact parents or carers of the pupils involved - in most cases they should be involved.

An immediate referral to police and/or children's social care should be made:

- If the incident involves an adult. There is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed, or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example owing to special educational needs).
- If what you know about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the young person's developmental stage, or are violent, or the young person in the imagery is under 13.
- You have reason to believe a young person is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example, the young person is presenting as suicidal or self-harming.

If none of the above apply then Tutor My Kids may decide to respond to the incident without involving the police or children's social care when the DSL is confident that they have enough information to assess the risks and manage them within Tutor My Kids.

### **Private Fostering**

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made without the involvement of a local authority for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins. Parents and private foster carers have a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence. Whilst most privately fostered children are appropriately supported and looked after, they are a potentially vulnerable group who should be monitored by the local authority, particularly when the child has come from another country. In some cases privately fostered children are affected by abuse and neglect, or involved in trafficking, child sexual exploitation or modern-day slavery. Tutor My Kids have a mandatory duty to report to the local authority where they are aware or suspect that a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. Tutor My Kids needs to know who has parental responsibility. Tutor My Kids employees, tutors, contractors and associates should notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead when

they become aware of private fostering arrangements. The designated safeguarding lead will speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform the LA. Tutor My Kids itself has a duty to inform the local authority of the private fostering arrangements.

### **Supporting Children**

We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses violence and/or abuse may find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self worth. We recognise that a child in these circumstances may feel helpless, humiliated and self blame. We recognise that Tutor My Kids may provide the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children who have been abused or who are at risk of harm.

We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.

Tutor My Kids will support all children through:

- The curriculum.
- Tutor My Kids ethos.
- Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness whilst not condoning aggression or bullying.
- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within Tutor My Kids, giving children a sense of being valued.
- Ensuring children know there are adults in Tutor My Kids whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Liaising and working together with support services and agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
- Notifying Social Care as soon as there is a significant concern.
- Providing continuing support to a child about whom there have been concerns who leaves Tutor My Kids ensuring that appropriate information is forwarded under confidential cover to the child's new provider.

### **Supporting employees, tutors, contractors and associates**

We recognise that employees, tutors, contractors and associates working with Tutor My Kids who have become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears to be likely to suffer harm may find the situation stressful and upsetting. We will support such employees, tutors, contractors and associates by providing an opportunity to discuss the situation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and to seek further support as appropriate.

### **Safer Recruitment**

High quality employees, tutors, contractors and associates are recruited through the following process:

- Application forms are evaluated
- Interview by an experienced manager
- At least two references taken up, including Safeguarding references where appropriate
- Enhanced DBS in place
- QTS Teacher reference confirmed

Recruitment will highlight the priority that Tutor My Kids places on safer recruitment and Tutor My Kids commitment to safeguarding. Tutor My Kids will follow the guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education, and in line with the Local Authority and Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures.

### **Allegations against peers**

Tutor My Kids recognises the different forms of peer on peer abuse, and is clear that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter" or "part of growing up".

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Such abuse should be taken as seriously as abuse by adults and should be subject to the same child protection procedures. Professionals should not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal among young people and should not develop high thresholds before taking action. Professionals should be aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour among young people.

Professionals should be aware of the added vulnerability of children and young people who have been the victims of violent crime (for example mugging), including the risk that they may respond to this by abusing younger or weaker children.

If one child or young person causes harm to another, this should not necessarily be dealt with as abuse: bullying, fighting and harassment between children are not generally seen as child protection issues. However, it may be appropriate to regard a young person's behaviour as abusive if:

- There is a large difference in power (for example age, size, ability, development) between the young people concerned.
- The perpetrator has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children.
- There are concerns about the intention of the alleged perpetrator.
- If the evidence suggests that there was an intention to cause severe harm to the victim; this should be regarded as abusive whether or not severe harm was actually caused.

### **Allegations against employees, tutors, contractors and associates**

Tutor My Kids recognises the possibility that adults working with Tutor My Kids may harm children. Any concerns about the conduct of other adults in Tutor My Kids should be taken to the DSL on the same working day.

Points for Consideration:

We understand that a child or 3<sup>rd</sup> party may make an allegation against an employee, tutor, contractor or associate. We will be guided by "Working together to safeguard children" which defines an allegation as:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that they are unsuitable to work with children.

The DSL will discuss immediately, on the same working day, the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), before taking any further action.

Tutor My Kids will not internally investigate until instructed by the LADO.

Tutor My Kids will follow the LA procedures for managing allegations against employees, tutors, contractors and associates, a copy of which will be readily available from Tutor My Kids.

### **Whistleblowing**

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where employees, tutors, contractors and associates fail to do so. All employees, tutors, contractors and associates must be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the attitude or actions of colleagues. Further information is available in our Whistleblowing Policy.

### **Physical Intervention**

Our policy on physical intervention by employees, tutors, contractors and associates is set out in Tutor My Kids Code of Conduct. Tutor My Kids are not trained in any form of restraint and have a policy of no physical contact.

### **Bullying**

Tutor My Kids acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and the victims. It also affects those other children who watch, and less aggressive students can be drawn in by group pressure. Bullying is not an inevitable part of life or a necessary part of growing up. It is clear that certain jokes, insults, threatening behaviour, written abuse and violence are to be found in our society. No one person or group should have to accept this type of behaviour. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed, will a child be best able to benefit from the opportunities available at the school. Tutor My Kids is completely opposed to bullying and will not tolerate it. Bullying is entirely contrary to the values and principles we work and live by. Everyone has a right to work in a secure and caring environment. They also have a responsibility to contribute, in whatever way they can, to the protection and maintenance of such an environment. As such, everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all students and all employees, tutors, contractors and associates have a duty of care to ensure students are protected from harm, and this includes bullying.

While working at a school, the school's anti bullying policy must be adhered to. School policies are usually available on their website, however if you need assistance, please contact Tutor My Kids.

### **Racial Incidents**

Tutor My Kids acknowledges that repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. While working at a school, the school's policy on racial incidents must be adhered to. School policies are usually available on their website, however if you need assistance, please contact Tutor My Kids.

### **Gender Incidents**

Tutor My Kids recognises the vulnerability of young people to gender related incidents. While working at a school, the school's policy on gender incidents must be adhered to. School policies are usually available on their website, however if you need assistance, please contact Tutor My Kids.

## **Violence and Harrassment**

Tutor My Kids acknowledges that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection procedures. While working at a school, the school's policy on bullying, violence and harassment must be adhered to. School policies are usually available on their website, however if you need assistance, please contact Tutor My Kids.

## **Health & Safety**

Our Health & Safety policy, set out in a separate document, reflects the consideration we give to the protection of children.

## **Prevention**

We recognise that Tutor My Kids plays a significant part in the prevention of harm by providing children and young people with good lines of communication with trusted adults and an ethos of protection.

Tutor My Kids establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to, ensure that all children know there is an adult in Tutor My Kids whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.

## **Other Relevant Tutor My Kids policies:**

Whistleblowing Policy

Code of Conduct

Behaviour Management Policy

Equality, Diversity and Racial Discrimination Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Privacy Policy

## **Management of Children subject to Child Protection Investigation or subject to a Child Protection Plan:**

The Designated Lead will contribute to the child protection investigation and attend or contribute to the Strategy meetings.

The Designated Lead or deputy will attend the Initial Child Protection Conference to share any relevant information and provide a written report for the conference.

If the child is placed on the Child Protection Register, the Designated Lead is responsible for ensuring that Tutor My Kids participates appropriately in the Child Protection Plan and attends all Core Group Meetings and Child Protection Conferences.

Information will be shared with employees, tutors, contractors and associates on a need to know basis but key personnel working with child should have sufficient information to support them in their work with that child.

If a child with a Child Protection Plan has an unexplained absence from tuition, the Designated Lead will inform the Social Worker.

## **Support and Training**

We are committed to the provision of safeguarding training for all and we recognise that employees, tutors, contractors and associates must be regularly updated. Safeguarding and Child Protection training is available regularly.

## **Record Keeping**

Tutor My Kids will work within DfE guidance. The Designated Lead will keep detailed, accurate, secure records of referrals and concerns. These will be kept separately from academic records. They are exempt from records available for examination by parents or children unless subject to a court order. All records will be dated and only accessible to named personnel.

A Child Protection Log is maintained in a secure area of the Tutor My Kids portal; this is only accessible by the Designated Lead. A log of concerns is maintained in the same secure site for concerns about young people which did not meet the threshold for referral in order to support monitoring and to provide information to escalate concerns when needed.

If a child transfers to another educational provision, the Designated Lead will forward the child protection file to a named person in the young person's home authority following a written request. The file should be marked 'confidential, to be opened by addressee only.'

The Designated Lead will retain a digital copy of the child protection file stored in a secure area. Child Protection records about a young person who has ceased to be of compulsory age should be archived and catalogued. Records must be kept until a child reaches 25 years of age; child protection records must be kept for 35 years after the child leaves Tutor My Kids.

When making a referral, the referrer should keep a written record of:

- Discussions with child
- Discussions with parents/carers
- Discussions with employees, tutors, contractors and associates
- Information provided to Social care
- Advice given and decisions taken (clearly times, dated and signed)

The referrer should confirm verbal and telephone referrals in writing within 12 hours, using the specific local authority referral form as agreed with a particular local authority.

Tutor My Kids will ensure that we keep up-to-date personal data records of all the children by regularly reminding parents to inform them of any change in family circumstances.

## **Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential. The Designated Lead will disclose personal information about a young person to other employees, tutors, contractors and associates on a need to know basis only.

However, all employees, tutors, contractors and associates must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children. Employees, tutors, contractors and associates cannot promise a child to keep secrets.

Employees, tutors, contractors and associates will consider the following:

- Data Protection Regulation is not a barrier to sharing information, it provides the framework.
- Be open & honest with the person from the outset about how information may be shared.
- Seek advice; do not fail to share information because you are unsure what to do.
- Consider safety and well-being of the child and base information sharing decisions on this.

**Ensure all information shared is Necessary, Proportionate, Relevant, Accurate, Timely & Secure**

Keep a record of your decision and reasons for it. Record what you have shared, with whom and the purpose.

All employees, tutors, contractors and associates must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child's safety or well-being or that of another.

**Designated Lead:**

Alastair Dixon

**Deputy Designated Lead:**

Sue Carpenter

**For further information go to NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800**



**Signed:**

Date: April 2024

Next review date: April 2025



## Additional Links

- DfE guidance: Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>
- DfE guidance: Working together to safeguard children  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- DfE guidance: Keeping children safe in education  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- DfE guidance: Child abuse concerns: guide for practitioners  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>
- DfE guidance: Schools causing concern  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern--2>