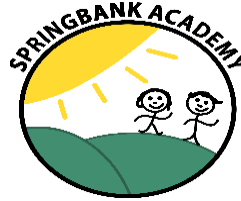


# Springbank Academy



**Where dreams are realised and success is celebrated**

Our whole school vision is:

Springbank Academy is a place where all of our children and staff will have the opportunity to excel. Everyone will be safe, happy and cared for. Our curriculum and values will inspire everyone in the school family to be motivated and curious learners and offer core skills, knowledge and enrichment to enable all to gain the foundations for a quality future and a love for life-long learning.

## Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (CSE) Policy

October 2024



**Policy Lead: Dawn Wigley**

Springbank Academy is committed to equal opportunities for all. It is our aim that every policy is written to have a positive impact on every child/all children irrespective of race; religion; gender; sexual orientation or age.

**Springbank = success for all**

**There is a key that unlocks every child's learning our job is to find that key.**

**Every staff member and governor must take the responsibility and accountability to ensure the procedures within this policy are delivered and implemented as per Springbank Academy Policy.**

## **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy**

***Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or 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. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*** (Department for Education, February 2017)

Springbank Academy adheres to the NSCP procedure in relation to child sexual exploitation. This is our policy to summarise our position.

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

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

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

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

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

Much of this work will be through our programmes of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme, RSHE, hot topic assemblies, creating films and theatre education workshops.

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

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

### **Actions to raise awareness of CSE**

- Renewal of CSE film.
- "Keep Safe" days.
- Internet Safety day.
- DIRT sessions (KS2) – pupil voice.
- Stranger Danger teaching through film created by children.
- Equality and gender training.
- Debates and discussions of 'difficult' subjects.