**THINGWALL PRIMARY CHILD MISSING IN EDUCATION AND CHILD EXPLOITATION POLICY 2018**

**Child Missing Education**

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area.

 A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School and college staff should follow the school’s or college’s procedures for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

 Thingwall Primary will put in place appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. It is essential that all staff are alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

The law requires all schools to have an admission register and, with the exception of schools where all pupils are boarders, an attendance register. All pupils must be placed on both registers.

**WHEN A CHILD GOES MISSING THE PROCEDURE IS:**

* The school administrator informs the safeguarding lead and records are kept from the minute the child goes missing until the child is traced.
* The school administrator contacts the LA authority to find out if the child has been placed safely elsewhere.
* The local secretary contacts all private education providers if the LA do not know where the child has been placed, as their systems are not held accountable centrally.
* If the child cannot be traced then the previous school is contacted.
* If the previous school and the LA cannot place the child then social services are contacted – in some cases the child may have been removed under a protection order by social services.
* If social services have no records then close LAs are contacted eg. Liverpool, Cheshire, Wales.
* If the child is still missing the local police are informed

 **Thingwall**  must inform their local authority of any pupil who is going to be deleted from the admission register where they:

* have been taken out of school by their parents and are being educated outside the school system e.g. home education;
* have ceased to attend school and no longer live within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered;
* have been certified by an appropriate medical practitioner as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age;
* are in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the proprietor does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period; or,
* have been permanently excluded.

 The local authority must be notified when Thingwall is to delete a pupil from its register under the above circumstances. **Thingwall should contact the Admissions section: Tel: 0151 666 4600.** This should be done as soon as the grounds for deletion are met, but no later than deleting the pupil’s name from the register. It is essential that Thingwall comply with this duty, so that local authorities can, as part of their duty to identify children of compulsory school age who are missing education, follow up with any child who might be in danger of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of abuse or neglect.

**Thingwall must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school’s permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the local authority (or in default of such agreement, at intervals determined by the Secretary of State).**

**Thingwall Primary School will keep clear records when any child is missing in education and will take this aspect of safeguarding seriously.**

**Governors will be informed of missing children numbers.**

 **Child Exploitation (CE)**

 **All staff at Thingwall will be trained every 3 years in CE/CSE and children**

 **missing in education. Thingwall is committed to protecting young peop-**

 **le in this area of safeguarding.**

 **Child Criminal Exploitation:** While there is still no legal definition of ‘Child Criminal Exploitation’ or CCE, it is increasingly being recognised as a major factor behind crime in communities across Merseyside and the UK, while also simultaneously victimising vulnerable young people and leaving them at risk of harm. A simple definition of CCE is:

CCE often occurs without the victim being aware that they are being exploited and involves young people being encouraged, cajoled or threatened to carry out crime for the benefit of others. In return they are offered friendship or peer acceptance, but also cigarettes , drugs (especially cannabis), alcohol or even food and accommodation.

 County lines is a term used to describe gangs, groups or drug networks that supply drugs from urban to suburban areas across the country, including market and coastal towns, using dedicated mobile phone lines or ‘deal lines’. They exploit children and vulnerable adults to move the drugs and money to and from the urban area, and to store the drugs in local markets. They will often use intimidation, violence and weapons, including knives, corrosives and firearms.

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and voluntary and community sector organisations. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

Further information and PAN Merseyside CE / CCE Documentation can be found here:

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/>

 **Child Sexual Exploitation:** 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 (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. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. Further information and documentation can be found here:

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/child-sexual-exploitation-cse/>

Date: Sept 2018

Review: Sept 2019