

MIAG



Child Exploitation Policy

Ratified by Chair of Govs:

Signed by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. M. 29', written over the dotted line for the signature.

Date

A handwritten date '02/09/25' in blue ink, written over the dotted line for the date.

Date:

Review Date:

Purpose:

MIAG (Meeting Individual Aspirations & Goals) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all learners. Child exploitation in any form is a serious safeguarding concern that can have devastating and long-lasting effects. This policy outlines how MIAG identifies, prevents, and responds to incidents of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE).

Aims:

- ✚ Protect learners from becoming victims of exploitation
 - ✚ Raise awareness among staff, learners, and parents/carers about the risks and indicators of exploitation
 - ✚ Provide clear procedures for responding to concerns or disclosures
 - ✚ Work effectively with safeguarding partners, including the police, local authority, and specialist services
 - ✚ Promote a safe, supportive environment where learners feel able to speak out
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Scope:

This policy applies to:

- ✚ All learners at MIAG, including those on-site and in off-site provision
 - ✚ All staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors
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Definitions:

- ✚ **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** A form of child sexual abuse where children are manipulated or coerced into sexual activity in exchange for something (e.g., attention, affection, money, alcohol, drugs)
 - ✚ **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE):** When children are manipulated or forced into criminal activity, such as drug dealing (county lines), theft, or violence, often through coercion, intimidation, or debt bondage
 - ✚ **Exploitation:** Always involves an imbalance of power, with the child unable to give informed consent
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Signs and Indicators:

Staff should be alert to potential warning signs, including (but not limited to):

For CSE:

- ✚ Unexplained gifts, money, or new possessions
- ✚ Relationships with significantly older individuals
- ✚ Going missing from home or education
- ✚ Changes in behaviour, mood, or appearance
- ✚ Sexualised behaviour or language

For CCE:

- ✚ Regularly going missing from provision/home
 - ✚ Carrying weapons, drugs, or large amounts of cash
 - ✚ Unexplained injuries
 - ✚ Sudden decline in engagement or performance
 - ✚ Association with gangs or older peers
 - ✚ Signs of fear, anxiety, or isolation
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Procedures:

Immediate Action:

If staff suspect a learner is at risk of exploitation:

- ✚ Report concerns immediately to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL**
- ✚ Record concerns on MIAG's safeguarding system
- ✚ Do not confront alleged perpetrators or investigate directly

DSL Response:

The DSL will:

- ✚ Assess the concern in line with KCSIE and local safeguarding partnership guidance
- ✚ Liaise with parents/carers where appropriate (unless doing so increases risk)
- ✚ Make a referral to **Children's Social Care** and/or the **police** if exploitation is suspected
- ✚ Work with external agencies (e.g., health, youth offending, specialist services)
- ✚ Record all actions and decisions

Ongoing Support:

- ✚ Provide pastoral support and mentoring for affected learners
 - ✚ Deliver targeted interventions (e.g., resilience-building, healthy relationships education)
 - ✚ Ensure staff are supported when dealing with distressing exploitation cases
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Prevention:

- ✚ Staff receive **annual safeguarding training**, including recognising and responding to exploitation
 - ✚ Learners are educated through the curriculum (PSHE, RHSE, and pastoral sessions) about risks, online safety, healthy relationships, and staying safe
 - ✚ MIAG fosters a culture of trust where learners feel safe to disclose concerns
 - ✚ Partnerships are maintained with local safeguarding boards, police, and community organisations
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Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

- ✚ Concerns about exploitation will be shared with safeguarding agencies in line with *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)*
 - ✚ Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis, respecting confidentiality but prioritising learner safety. Using the MIAG Need to Know Form
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Links to Other MIAG Policies:

This policy should be read in conjunction with MIAG's wider safeguarding framework, including:

- ✚ **Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy** – overarching safeguarding framework
- ✚ **Missing Persons Policy** – addresses circumstances where going missing may indicate exploitation
- ✚ **Behaviour & Relational Practice Policy** – ensures behaviour concerns are understood in the context of possible abuse or coercion
- ✚ **E-Safety/Online Safety Policy** – exploitation often begins or occurs online
- ✚ **Anti-Bullying Policy** – covers peer-on-peer abuse, intimidation, and coercion linked to exploitation.
- ✚ **Staff Training & Development Policy** – ensures staff receive training to identify and respond to exploitation
- ✚ **SEND Policy** – recognises vulnerabilities of learners with SEND/SEMH to exploitation

- ✚ **Health & Safety and Educational Visits Policy** – considers exploitation risks during off-site activities
 - ✚ **Whistleblowing Policy** – ensures staff can raise concerns if exploitation or unsafe practice is not addressed
 - ✚ **Confidentiality & Data Protection Policy** – sets out lawful and safe sharing of safeguarding information
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Monitoring & Review

- ✚ The DSL will monitor incidents, referrals, and outcomes
- ✚ The policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if national/local guidance changes
- ✚ Learning from cases will inform updates to staff training and curriculum