

Henllys CiW School – Child Protection Policy and Procedures (based upon the Wales Safeguarding Procedures) – (Short version for all staff and volunteers)

Key principles

The key principles on which to base work with children and families are found in the *Children Act 1989* and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which the UK is a signatory and

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They should be enabled to:

- Be as physically and mentally healthy as possible;
- Gain the maximum benefit possible from good quality educational opportunities;
- Live in a safe environment and be protected from harm;
- Experience emotional well-being;
- Feel loved and valued, and be supported by a network of reliable and affectionate relationships;
- Become competent in looking after themselves and coping with everyday living;
- Have a positive image of themselves and a secure sense of identity, including cultural and racial identity;
- Develop good inter-personal skills and confidence in social situations.

Definitions of child abuse and neglect

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 setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection via an inter-agency Child Protection Plan.

1. Physical abuse

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 feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation may be described as fabricated or induced illness by a carer.

2. Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent 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 in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

3. Sexual abuse

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. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or in watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

4. Neglect

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 or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

5. Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse also has a detrimental effect on a child's well-being - where a child is subject to or a witness to domestic violence then a child protection referral should be made.

Identifying and acting on concerns or suspicion of abuse

Anyone who has concerns about a child's or children's welfare, they should report it using My Concern OR write down their concerns and talk to the Designated Safeguarding Person, Philippa Minto (or Tom Cleverley if Philippa is absent). Any discussion about a child's welfare should be recorded using My Concern by the DSP (Philippa Minto), including a note of the date and who took part in the discussion. At the close of a discussion, there should be clear and explicit agreement about who will be taking what action, or that no further action will be taken. This agreement should also be recorded in My Concern. A suspicion of abuse may take the form of 'concerns' rather than 'known facts'. Concerns can and should be shared with Social Services through a referral. While concerns will not necessarily trigger an investigation in themselves, they may help to build up a picture, along with concerns from other sources, which suggests that a child may be suffering harm.

If you suspect a child is being neglected or may be subject to any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse or be in family where there is domestic violence or be at risk of radicalisation report the matter to the school's Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP), Philippa Minto. In the event of her absence, report the matter to Tom Cleverly (Deputy DSP).

A referral should be made to Social Services by telephone **asap** on 01633 647249. Do not wait for the designated person to be available if a child could be in danger when they go home. For advice beforehand, telephone the duty worker on 01633 648092 or 01495 742920. After 5pm you need to phone the emergency duty team on 08003284432 or the police. A referral should be followed up by the paperwork within 24 hours of the referral being made so it may be appropriate to wait for the designated person before you do this. The link to the On-line Duty to Report form which is the preferred method of referral is <https://services.torfaen.gov.uk/report-a-concern-about-a-child>

If someone tells you that they or another child or young person is being abused:

- Show that you have heard what they are saying, and that you take their allegations seriously.
- Encourage the child to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions. Don't interrupt when the child is recalling significant events. Don't make the child repeat their account. TEDS - Tell me, Explain, Describe, Show me what happened.
- Explain what actions you must take, in a way which is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child.
- Do not promise to keep what you have been told secret, as you have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know. Reporting concerns is not a betrayal of trust.
- Write down what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.
- Report your concerns to the member of staff in your organisation with designated responsibility for child protection (Philippa Minto) using My Concern (or the orange forms).
- Do not confront the alleged abuser.
- Do not worry that you may be mistaken. You will always be taken seriously by Social Services. It is better to have discussed it with somebody with the experience and responsibility to make an assessment.

If the behavior of any adult (including colleagues and members of the public) towards children or young people causes you concern:

- Do not dismiss your concerns.
- Do not confront the person about whom you have concerns.
- If it is a person with professional responsibility for children or young people discuss your concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Officer, Philippa Minto.
- If the concern is about Philippa Minto, contact the Chair of Governors and in their absence Jacqueline Watkins, Safeguarding Officer at the LA.
- If you feel that this is inappropriate, or you are not satisfied with the response that you get, contact the relevant person in your agency or Social Services. It is very important that you do not ignore or dismiss suspicions about another professional.

Messages:

Better to be safe than sorry!

If you see, hear or suspect something, say something and know who to say it to!

Contact Details

Designated Person	Philippa Minto - 07765248330 (Tom Cleverley - 07540428853 if Philippa's not available)
Chair of Governors	Rev. Elizabeth Kerl for referrals about the Headteacher 07414 272060 (Jacqueline Watkins at LA in her absence 01495 762200)
Designated Governor	Fran English (07521265560)
Social Services	For referrals 01633 647249
Duty	For advice 01633 648092 or 01495 747235
Emergency Social Services	After 5pm only if child could be in danger of harm 08003284432

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