

*Brynhafren
C.P. School*

*Child Protection
Policy*

“Growing & Learning Together”

“Tyfu a Dysgu Gyda’n Gilydd”

Adopted: October 2020

Signed.....Headteacher

Signed.....Chair of Governors

Child Protection Policy for Brynhafren CP School

Introduction

1.1 Brynhafren School fully recognises the contribution it makes to child protection.

We recognise that a child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. "Children", therefore, means "children and young people" throughout. The fact that a child has become 16 years of age and may be living independently, does not change their status or their entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act, 1989.

We believe that all children have a right to:-

- be as physically and mentally healthy as possible;
- gain the maximum benefit possible from good quality education opportunities;
- live in a safe environment and be protected from harm;
- experience emotional well-being;
- feel loved and valued, and 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; and
- develop good interpersonal skills and confidence in social situations.

The main elements to our policy are:-

- a. prevention through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils;
- b. procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. Because of our day to day contact with children school staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse;
- c. provision of training for all staff, including additional training for the Designated Teachers for Child Protection; and
- d. support for pupils who may have been abused.

1.2 Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the school and governors. Learning support assistants, mid-day supervisors, caretakers, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child.

Prevention

2.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to safeguard pupils.

The school will therefore:-

- a. establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- b. ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty (the school's Child Protection Policy will be provided in a format which is appropriate to the age and understanding of the pupils);
- c. include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help; and
- d. include in the curriculum, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills.

Procedures

3.1 We will follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 that have been endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

3.2 The school will:-

- a. ensure it has two designated senior members of staff, who have undertaken the appropriate training;
- b. recognise the role of the designated teacher and arrange support and training. The additional training received by the Designated Teacher for Child Protection includes attendance at the LSCB Annual Conference and attendance at Safeguarding/Child Protection update sessions for Designated Teachers for Child Protection, organised centrally by the Authority.

The Designated Teachers for Child Protection in this school are: Alison Ellis and Sam Rees

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection in this school is: Sarah Blackmore

The role of the Designated Teacher for Child Protection is:-

- to be fully conversant with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and to ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, know about these procedures;
- to have a clear understanding in relation to how to identify the signs and symptoms of abuse and when to make a referral;
- to understand the roles and responsibilities of the designated agencies and how to respond to and work with them;
- to understand the conduct of Child Protection Conferences and Core Group meetings and how he/she or another member of staff can make appropriate contributions to them;
- the co-ordination of all Child Protection issues, acting as a source of advice and support for any staff who have concerns or information that a child may be suffering abuse or a child in need;
- to be responsible for taking a lead in making referrals to Children's Services;

- to ensure that the school is represented at Case Conferences and Core Group meetings and contribute fully by providing reports as required;
- to attend training on a regular basis and cascade training to staff;
- to ensure that all staff (including new staff/supply teachers) have access to all the relevant Child Protection documents and are clear about their own responsibilities;
- to report any allegation about a member of staff to the Schools Service's Lead Officer Child Protection/Safeguarding (Tel: 01597 826431) and, if this Officer is unavailable, to liaise with Children's Services regarding appropriate action.
- to ensure that a chronological record of concerns is maintained If there are concerns about a child even if there is no need to make an immediate referral;
- to ensure that all records including Case Conference minutes are kept confidentially and securely (separate from pupil records);
- to liaise with the Designated Teacher for Child Protection in the new school when a child, who is on the Child Protection register or who has been on the Child Protection Register, transfers to another school and to seek the agreement of the Chair of the Case Conference to the transfer of Case Conference minutes and other Child Protection information;
- to keep informed both of the welfare of individual pupils on the Child Protection Register and of general Child Protection issues within the school;
- to be aware of other agencies involved with Child Protection in the Local Authority and, as a result, to liaise with them;
- to ensure, together with the Headteacher, that any decisions made by a Case Conference, which involve school staff, are carried out as agreed at the Conference;
- to be a key professional support, together with the Headteacher, to members of staff to whom pupils have disclosed abuse;
- to ensure that the school identifies which children are on the Child Protection Register when referring a child for full assessment;
- to advise staff on Safeguarding input to the school curriculum;
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Safeguarding work carried out within the school;
- if unsure about whether a case should be formally referred or if there are genuine concerns regarding a child's health or development, to seek advice from other appropriate professionals.

c. ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:-

- the name of the designated person and their role;
- that they have an individual responsibility for referring child protection concerns using the proper channels and within the timescales agreed with the Local Safeguarding Children Board;
- that they need to be alert to signs of abuse;
- what to do when they have observed abuse by other staff in the school;
- what to do if there is an allegation against the headteacher;

- how to take forward those concerns where the designated person is unavailable;
 - how to refer disclosures and / or allegations about abuse from (i) within the school and (ii) home or outside; and
 - not to contact parents if it would put the child at risk.
- d. ensure that members of staff are aware of the need to be alert to signs of abuse and know how to respond to a pupil who may disclose abuse;
- e. ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus;
- f. provide training for all staff so that they know:-
- i. their personal responsibility;
 - ii. the agreed local procedures;
 - iii. the need to be vigilant in identifying cases of abuse;
 - iv. how to make pupils feel encouraged and secure to discuss any concerns they may have; and
 - v. how to support a child who discloses abuse.
- g. notify the local social services team if:-
- a pupil on the child protection register is excluded either for a fixed term or permanently; and
 - if there is an unexplained absence of a pupil on the child protection register of more than two days duration from school (or one day following a weekend);
- h. work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at initial review and child protection conferences and core groups and the submission of written reports to the conferences;
- i. keep full written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Children's Services immediately;
- j. ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations;
- k. adhere to the procedures set out in the Welsh Assembly Government guidance circular 45/2004 *Staff Disciplinary Procedures in Schools*;
- l. ensure that recruitment and selection procedures are made in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government guidance circular 34/2002 "*Child Protection: Preventing Unsuitable People from working with Children in the Education Sector*";

- m. ensure that all staff are in possession of a current and valid DBS certificate (this is the responsibility of the headteacher); and
- n. designate a governor for child protection who will oversee the school's child protection policy and practice.

The Nominated Governor for Child Protection in this school is: Karen Pountney

The role of the Nominated Governor for Child Protection is as follows:-

- to ensure that the school has a Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy in place which is reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness;
- to ensure that the Designated Teacher and other staff attend appropriate and regular training;
- to ensure that any allegation made against the Headteacher is immediately reported to them. The Chair of Governors will then contact the Schools Service Designated Lead for Child Protection/Safeguarding or Children's Services and attend any Professional Strategy meeting which is convened as a result;
- to ensure that the school has an up to date and agreed Staff Disciplinary Procedure for dealing with allegations of misconduct against members of staff including Child Protection allegations;
- to ensure that the school operates safe recruitment procedures and ensures that all appropriate checks are carried out on all relevant staff in accordance with current regulations;
- to ensure that there is an item on the agenda of the Governing Body meeting, at least once a year, where the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy is reviewed and a report is provided on:
 - changes to Child Protection procedures;
 - training undertaken by all staff and governors in the preceding twelve months;
 - the number of incidents of a Child Protection nature which arose in the school within the preceding twelve months (without details or names);
 - where and how Child Protection and Safeguarding appear in the curriculum;
- provide a link between the Governing Body and the school in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding;
- act as a critical friend - support and challenge the school;
- keep their own Child Protection/Safeguarding knowledge up to date through attending training events for Nominated Governors;
- be familiar with current guidelines on Child Protection/Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment and be aware of changes to the regulations;
- ensure that Child Protection Policies and Procedures are in place and readily accessible to all staff;
- ensure that all staff and governors know what to do if they suspect a child is being abused;
- ensure that accurate records are being kept by the school and that the Child Protection file is up to date.

Training

The Child Protection/Safeguarding training provided for all staff comprises the following:-

Induction

The school will make available to all new members of staff and volunteers working in the school for the first time and governors, either prior to taking up their role or immediately after taking up their role, a copy of the Powys Local Safeguarding Children Board Induction Booklet entitled 'A Quick Guide to Child Protection, Protecting and Caring for the Children and Young People of Powys'. Staff and volunteers will be given the opportunity to read the booklet and sign the school's training record to confirm that they have read the document. The Designated Teacher for Child Protection will confirm the member of staff/volunteer's understanding of basic Child Protection information through a conversation with the individual.

Foundation Training

The school will make available to all staff and governors opportunities to follow the LSCB Foundation Child Protection Training. These opportunities will either be made available on an individual school basis or as part of a cluster or regional Child Protection Training opportunity. The training will be offered at least every three years and, where members of staff and governors miss this training or are employed / join the governing body after a recent training opportunity, they will be expected to join the Child Protection training being delivered in a neighbouring school or undertake the LSCB e-learning Foundation Child Protection package.

Training for the Designated Teacher for Child Protection

The school will make sure that the designated teacher for Child Protection receives additional training at least every 2 years, which covers the role of the designated teacher for Child Protection, developments in the Local Safeguarding Children Board approaches to Child Protection and Safeguarding, lessons learned from cases and inter-agency working. This training will be provided through the following:-

- specific training offered on an annual basis, by the Schools Service, in relation to the role of the designated teacher for Child Protection and related issues;
- attendance at the Local Safeguarding Children Board conference;
- attendance at the Area Child Protection Fora arranged twice a year through the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Supporting the Pupil at Risk

4.1 We recognise that children who are at risk, suffer abuse or witness violence may be deeply affected by this.

4.2 This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.

4.3 The school will endeavour to support the pupil through:-

- a. the content of the curriculum to encourage self esteem and self motivation (see section 2 on Prevention);
- b. the school ethos which:-
 - i. promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment; and
 - ii. gives pupils a sense of being valued (see section 2 on Prevention);
- c. the school's behaviour policy is aimed at supporting vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach which focuses on the behaviour or the offence committed by the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self worth. The school will endeavour to ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
- d. liaison with other agencies who support the student such as Children's Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, the Educational Psychology Service, Behaviour Support Services and the Education Welfare Service; and
- e. keeping records and notifying Social Services as soon as there is a recurrence of a concern.

4.4 when a pupil on the Child Protection Register leaves the school, in addition to the standard transfer of information to the new school, the Designated Teacher for Child Protection will make immediate contact with the Designated Teacher for Child Protection in the new school in order to inform them that the child is on the Child Protection register and will seek urgent agreement from the Case Conference Chair for the transfer of minutes of Case Conference meetings and Core Groups, together with other relevant Child Protection information, to the new school.

Detailed information in relation to definitions of abuse and procedures to address issues of a Child Protection nature is included in the **APPENDIX** which is attached to this document.

Bullying

4.5 Our policy on bullying is set out in the school's behaviour policy and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Physical Intervention

4.6 Our policy on physical intervention is set out in the policy document on Governing the Use of Reasonable Force to Control or Restrain Pupils and Safe Touch Policy and is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs

4.7 We recognise that statistically children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with profound and multiple disabilities, sensory impairment and or emotional and behaviour problems need to be particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

Review

This policy and the appendix will be reviewed annually and will be placed on the agenda for a discussion at a full governing body meeting at least once a year. The discussion will be minuted and will be supported by a report provided, by the designated teacher for Child Protection, on the following:-

- changes to Child Protection procedures;
- training undertaken by all staff and governors in the preceding 12 months;
- the number of incidents of a Child Protection nature which arose in the school within the preceding 12 months (without details or names);
- where and how Child Protection and Safeguarding appear in the curriculum;
- lessons learned from cases.

APPENDIX

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CYMUNEDAU, SGILIAU A DYSGU / COMMUNITIES, SKILLS AND LEARNING

GWASANAETH YSGOLION / SCHOOLS SERVICE

CHILD PROTECTION – DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES

DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

What is child abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatments of a child. A child is abused and neglected when someone inflicts significant harm, or fails to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger. A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. “Children”, therefore, means “children and young people” throughout. The fact that a child has become 16 years of age and may be living independently, does not change their status or their entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act, 1989.

Significant harm is defined in legislation as ill treatment or the impairment of health and development of a child.

Everybody should:

- be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect;
- be alert to the risks that abusers may pose to children;
- share their concerns so that information can be gathered to assist in the assessment of the child’s needs and circumstances;
- work with agencies to contribute to actions that are needed to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare’
- continue to support the child and their family.

Classifications of abuse

- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Physical abuse

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 children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, for example by witnessing domestic abuse within the home or being bullied, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on a child.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone. The definition of significant harm has been extended to include 'suffering experienced by children who witness the ill-treatment of another person such as domestic violence' (Children and Adoption Act, 2002).

Possible signs and indicators of emotional abuse

- changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clinging
- Depression, aggression, extreme anxiety
- Nervousness, frozen watchfulness
- Obsession or phobias
- Sudden underachievement or lack of concentration
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults
- Attention-seeking behaviour
- Persistent tiredness
- Running away
- Continual self-deprecation
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations
- Self-harm or mutilation
- Compulsive stealing/scrounging
- Drug/solvent abuse
- Neurotic behaviour – obsessive rocking, thumb sucking, and so on
- Air of detachment – 'don't care' attitude
- Social isolation – does not join in and has few friends
- Desperate attention-seeking behaviour
- Eating problems, including over-eating and lack of appetite
- Depression, withdrawal

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 pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Possible signs and indicators of sexual abuse

- Any allegations made concerning sexual abuse
- Bruises, scratches, or bite marks on the body
- Excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour
- Child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams or nightmares, sometimes with overt or veiled sexual connotations
- Eating disorders – anorexia, bulimia (these may indicate the possibility that a child or young person is self-harming)
- Scratches, abrasions or persistent infections in the anal or genital regions

- Sexual awareness inappropriate to the child's age – shown for example in drawings, vocabulary, games etc.
- Frequent public masturbation
- Attempts to teach other children about sexual activity
- Refusing to stay with certain people or go to certain places
- Repeated urinary infections or unexplained stomach pains
- Aggressiveness, anger, anxiety, tearfulness
- Withdrawal from friends
- Pregnancy (in older young people)

Sexual Abuse: why children don't tell

- Threats
- Bribes
- Making the child feel guilty
- Persuading that what is happening is normal
- Being told that they will be taken away if they tell
- Hoping to protect a brother or sister if they put up with the abuse
- Being persuaded that this is how people show their love
- Being told that they asked for it because they acted seductively
- Fear of losing favours, such as a place on the team or squad
- Being told that they will be responsible for the abuser going to prison
- Fear of losing control of their lives
- How to put it into words

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and 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, failure 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.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Possible signs and indicators of neglect

- Hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing
- Frequent lateness and non-attendance
- Untreated medical problems
- Poor social relationships
- Compulsive stealing or scrounging
- Tiredness

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 care-giver fabricates or induces illness in a child whom they are looking after.

Common sites for accidental injury

- Forehead
- Chin
- Spine
- Forearm
- Hips
- Shins
- Knees
- Elbows
- Nose

Common sites for non-accidental injury

- Eyes – bruising (particularly both eyes)
- Skull – fracture, bruising or bleeding under skull (from shaking)
- Cheek/side of face – bruising, finger marks
- Mouth – torn frenulum
- Neck/shoulders/chest/upper and inner arms – bruising, grasp marks
- Genitals – bruising
- Knees – grasp marks
- Back, buttocks, thighs – linear bruising, outline of belt/buckles, scalds/burns

Possible signs and indicators of abuse

- Unexplained injuries or burns, particularly if recurrent
- Injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries that occur in places not normally exposed to falls, rough games etc.
- Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming
- Refusal to discuss injuries or improbable explanations
- Untreated injuries or lingering illnesses
- Admission of punishment which appears excessive
- Shrinking from physical contact
- Fear of returning home or of parents being contacted
- Fear of undressing
- Fear of medical help
- Aggression / bullying
- Over-compliant behaviour or 'watchful attitude'
- Running away
- Significant changes in behaviour without explanation
- Bruises on babies, bites, burns, fractures, etc. which do not have an accidental explanation (these may also indicate the possibility that a child or young person is self-harming)
- Cuts/scratches/substance misuse (these may also indicate the possibility that a child or young person is self-harming).

Signs of abuse

The above lists are not exhaustive and there may be other indicators of abuse.

- What is important is to keep everything in context with the wider situation and not to jump to conclusions, and
- Talk to your Designated Teacher for Child Protection, or other appropriate professionals, if you have concerns.

Compromised Parenting

No single factor causes children to be abused. Many factors influence family life and the development of a child.

Parental problems such as mental illness, domestic abuse and substance misuse can make the task of parenting harder and may increase the risk of abuse or neglect.

These factors can affect children in a number of ways. They may directly affect the growing foetus, expose a child to stress or harm and limit the adult's ability to parent.

Abuse of Trust

Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 005/2008 Safeguarding Children in Education – the role of local authorities and governing bodies under the Education Act, 2002, states as follows:-

All Education staff need to know that inappropriate behaviour with, or towards, children is unacceptable. In particular, under the Sexual Offences Act, 2003, it is an offence for a person over 18 (for example teacher, teaching assistant, support worker) to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 where that person is in a position of trust in respect of that child, even if the relationship is consensual. This applies where the child is in full-time education and the person works in the same establishment as the child, even if he/she does not teach the child.

PROCEDURES

What to do if you are worried or concerned about a child/young person

Seek advice from the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection or their deputy.

If school staff are not available, advice can be requested from the following:-

Schools Service Designated Lead for Child Protection / Safeguarding

Mr Michael Gedrim

Tel: 01597 826431

Fax: 01597 826475

Email: michael.gedrim@powys.gov.uk

In the event of the Child Protection / Safeguarding Lead being unavailable, the following officers, within the Schools Service, can be contacted:-

Mrs Lynette Lovell, Interim Head of Schools Service

Tel: 01686 614047

Mobile: 07867 908919

Fax: 01686 614009

Email: lynette.lovell@powys.gov.uk

Mr Imtiaz Bhatti, School Effectiveness Officer, Working With Others

Tel: 01597 826401

Mobile: 07585 402356

Fax: 01597 826475

Email: Imtiaz.bhatti@powys.gov.uk

In addition, advice can also be provided by any of the Authority's Education Welfare Officers i.e.

North Powys

Mrs Margaret Jones and

Mrs Clair Miles

Tel: 01686 626395

01686 614057

Mobile: 07974 141281

07919 291378

Fax: 01686 614009

Email: margaret.jones@powys.gov.uk

clair.miles-owen@powys.gov.uk

Mr Geraint Thomas

Tel: 01686 626395

Mobile: 07774 764710

Fax: 01686 614009

Email: geraint.thomas@powys.gov.uk

Mid/South Powys:

Mr Chris Davies

Tel: 01874 612211

Mobile: 07785 761569

Fax: 01874 610279

Email: christopher.davies@powys.gov.uk

Mr David Evans

Tel: 01874 612211

Mobile: 07831 834021

Fax: 01874 610279

Email: david.thomas.evans@powys.gov.uk

Advice can also be provided by any of the Authority's School Effectiveness Officers, Leadership and Management, and School Effectiveness Officers, Teaching and Learning.

Further to the above, advice can be requested from the Council's Safeguarding Manager and her contact details are as follows:-

Ms Ali Davies

Tel: 01597 827325

Email: alison.davies1@powys.gov.uk

In addition, advice can be requested from Social Services Officers (contact telephone numbers below) and Family Protection Officers within the Dyfed Powys Police – telephone number 101 or 0845 330 2000.

If the child is in immediate danger, the police should be called. If the child is not in immediate danger, Children's Services should be called and a written referral must be submitted within two days.

Always seek advice and support.

It is essential that all agencies work together to protect children. To delay reporting a suspicion of abuse could be disastrous.

Referrals should be made to Children's Services as soon as a problem, suspicion or concern becomes apparent, and certainly within 24 hours. Referrals to Children's Services in Powys should be made to the Duty Officer based at:-

- **Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool 01938 552017**
- **The Park, Newtown 01686 617520/1**
- **1 High Street, Llandrindod Wells 01597 827325**
- **Neuadd Brycheiniog, Brecon, 01874 624298**
- **Hendreladus, Ystradgynlais, 01639 844595**
- **Out of Office Hours 0845 757 3818**

The referral should be clear, legible, factual (rather than opinions) and contain as much information as possible.

Allegations against Staff

If a member of staff observes abuse by other staff in the school or becomes aware of an allegation against the headteacher, he / she should immediately refer this matter to the designated teacher for Child Protection. If the designated teacher for Child Protection is the member of staff involved, the concern / allegation should be reported to the deputy designated teacher for Child Protection. If that individual is not available, the member of staff should,

without delay, report the matter to the Schools Service Lead Officer for Child Protection / Safeguarding (tel: 01597 826431) and, if this officer is unavailable, liaise with Children's Services regarding appropriate action.

What to do if a child discloses to you

- If a child discloses to you, do not further question the child but ensure that the child is safe. Don't interrogate or ask 'leading' questions, for example, 'What did he/she do next?' Such questions may invalidate your evidence (and the child's) in any later prosecution. You may ask an open question, for example, 'Is there anything else you want to say?' but nothing more. Ensure the physical environment is welcoming, giving the opportunity for the child to talk in private but making sure that others are aware that the conversation is taking place.
- Remain open to the disclosure: do not appear shocked or disbelieving (even if you feel like it). Be attentive and look at them whilst they are speaking. Above everything else, listen without interrupting. Allow the child to feel secure and give them time. Try to remain calm, even if on the inside you are feeling somewhat different. Do not criticise the alleged perpetrator and do not ask the pupil to repeat what they have said for another member of staff.
- Never promise that you will keep what they say secret but do reassure them that you will act on their behalf to ensure only those who need to know are told.

REMEMBER the procedures after disclosure can seem more frightening to a child than the alleged abuse. They may have been threatened that something bad will happen to them if they tell.

- If they decide not to tell you after all, accept their decision but let them know that you are always ready to listen.
- Only speak of the allegation to those to whom you must refer. Only discuss this with those who need to know to safeguard the child – confidentiality is still essential except for the line of referral.
- RECORD accurately everything you have been told, observed and/or have actioned, by whom, where, when, time – using the child's own words (do not interpret what they have said). Brief notes should be written immediately with the record written up as soon as possible afterwards. Do not destroy your original notes in case they are required by a court.
- Remember overall that the CHILD'S WELFARE IS PARAMOUNT.

Helpful responses:

- You have done the right thing in telling
- I am glad you have told me
- I will try to help you

Don't say:

- Why didn't you tell anyone before?
- I can't believe it!
- Are you sure that this is true?
- Why? How? When? Who? Where?
- I am shocked, don't tell anyone else.

