



Child Protection Update

Child abuse occurs in families from all social classes as well as in agencies and organisations. Abusers come from all walks of life and all occupations and professions. All staff in our school are recruited following Department of Education and Education Authority procedures – this includes a criminal record check. The same check is carried out on students on placement from Training Organisations of Further and Higher Education. As Principal, I have a duty to inform Social Services where a concern exists about the likelihood of a child being abused.

Although the upbringing of a child is primarily the responsibility of his/her parents, children may be abused by a parent, a brother/sister, step brother/sister, other relatives, a carer, an acquaintance or a stranger. Abuse may take a number of forms, including:

- Neglect: the actual or likely persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.
- Physical abuse: the actual or likely perpetrated physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child.
- Sexual abuse: the actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent.
- Emotional abuse: the actual or likely persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional or behavioural development of a child.

It is very important that the Principal is **informed** if your child's name has been placed on the Social Services Register of 'Children at Risk'. It is also important that the Principal is informed in writing if any member of your child's family does not have permission to collect your child. Parents should be prepared to give details of arrangements in the event of a recent separation or divorce, outlining those who have parental responsibility/access to the child.

Please remember that any such information given will be treated in a strictly confidential manner and shared with other members of staff only on a 'need to know' basis.



How a parent can report a concern for a child's safety

If there are any concerns about a child's safety at the school, parents are invited to take the following course of action:

I have a concern about my child's safety.

I can talk to the class teacher.

If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mrs Parkes
(Designated Child Protection Teacher).

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal
(Mrs Mairs).

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chairman of
the Board of Governors (Mr P Bunting).

