



Ysgol Estyn

Child Protection Policy

Ysgol Estyn C.P. School

Child Protection Policy

Philosophy/Aims/Objectives - Where do you start from?

We believe that Child Protection is an integral part of any child's education in our Primary School.

Principles – What should we do?

Our intention is that Child Protection should be a key focus for all staff (teaching, support and administrative). It should feature daily as part of the thinking of those working with children at the school.

All pupils will be valued, respected, listened to and taken seriously.

The Child Protection Policy will be readily accessible to all staff.

Legal requirements must be known and will be adhered to by all.

Procedures – How do we do it?

There will be a Designated Teacher for Child Protection. There will be a designated Governor for Child Protection.

The Designated Teacher and Governor will have appropriate awareness Training.

The Headteacher or Designated Governor for Child Protection will be responsible for keeping all colleagues aware of developments, legal requirements, current procedures, liaison with Support Services and for the Annual Review of the Child Protection Policy.

The school's Prospectus will have a section on Child Protection so that parents of pupils on roll will be aware of the School's Policy and Procedures.

Child and Family Information will be on the agenda of every staff meeting.

Support systems will be available for vulnerable pupils and for teachers dealing with disclosures of abuse.

Staff will be made aware of the available support system for staff who are subject of allegations

Success Criteria:

All staff are aware of the school's Child Protection Policy.

All staff follow proper procedures at all times.

Early warning prevents serious harm to any pupil.

Effective measures are put into place via Support Services.

Policy and Practice are reviewed regularly.

YSGOL ESTYN

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

Action to be taken by teaching and non-teaching staff who suspect child abuse.

Good communication is essential to the management of child abuse cases as well as skilled care and treatment. There are, however, constraints which must be recognised and understood by any worker dealing with a case:

1. Respect for confidentiality
2. Emotional resistance and denial of the problem
3. Plausibility of the parents
4. Natural reluctance to intervene in a family which must be balanced against the need to safeguard the interests of a child
5. Concern to maintain relationships
6. Need to enforce the criminal law

Although these constraints may influence a worker's assessment of a situation and the action taken, it must be remembered that in child abuse cases **THE CHILD IS THE PRIMARY CLIENT OR PATIENT** at all times and his/her safety and well being are of primary importance. **ANY CASE OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR OF A CHILD BEING AT RISK OF ABUSE SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURES.** The investigation must include the child being seen by someone competent to assess the situation and to ensure the child's safety.

The starting point of the child protection system is that any person who has knowledge or a suspicion that a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse has a duty to refer their concern to one or more of the 'investigating agencies' (i.e. the Social Services Department, the Police or the N.S.P.C.C.), who have statutory duties and/or powers to investigate and intervene.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD PROTECTION - HEADTEACHER

1. When you suspect that a child has been abused, inform the Headteacher immediately. He will initiate Flintshire Child Protection Procedure as follows:
2. The Headteacher will consult without delay the senior clinical medical officer who will initiate action. Contact Tel No. - North Wales Health Authority - 01978 356551
3. The Headteacher will inform without delay the Area Officer, Social Services Department.
4. The referral will be confirmed in writing on the child abuse report form and despatched on the same day to the Director of Education, under a confidential cover.
5. The Education Department representative will be required to attend and participate in any resulting Case Conference.
6. If the school nursing sister is available she may be called upon to help in any immediate action, but it remains the Headteacher's responsibility to take action as outlined above.

School based contacts:

Child Protection Officers: Mr Gareth Jones and Mr Huw Ellis

Child Protection Governor: Mrs Debrah Skelly

Important Information

School Nurse	Sister Sarah Wisbey	01978 760238
School Doctor	Dr A. Ninan	01978 356551
Ed. Social Worker	Mrs Delyth Taylor	01978 760238
Child Protection Officer Services to Young People	Mr Guy	01352 704112

Location for Reference

Child Protection Information

Flintshire Child Protection Procedure

and relevant documentation - General Child Protection procedures in brown cupboard in Headteacher's Office.

DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse may be defined as:

Any trauma or injury occurring in a child under the age of 17 where the nature of the trauma or injury is not consistent with the account of how it occurred

OR

where there is reasonable suspicion that the trauma or injury was caused or not prevented by any person having charge of the child.

The forms of abuse are defined as follows:

1. **Physical Abuse** - Physical injury to a child, including deliberate poisoning, where there is definite knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion, that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.
2. **Neglect** - The persistent or severe neglect of a child (for example, by exposure to any kind of danger including cold and starvation) which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.
3. **Emotional Abuse** - The severe adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or rejection. All abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment : this category should be used where it is the main or sole form of abuse.
4. **Sexual Abuse** - The involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents in sexual activities they do not truly comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent, or that violate social taboos of family roles.

N.B. These definitions have been agreed by the Flintshire Area Child Protection Committee and are the criteria used for including childrens' names on the child protection register.

A diagnosis of child abuse will always require a medical examination of the child and a social assessment of the family background.

FLINTSHIRE

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

EDUCATION STAFF

General

The Education, Children's Services and Recreation Directorate has an important role in recognising and referring alleged cases of abuse.

It is the individual establishments' responsibility to raise awareness and to ensure staff receive appropriate training and induction.

The education authority has a duty to monitor this in the establishments it maintains. It is the governors' duty in other establishments, including colleges and grant maintained schools.

Schools and other establishments should have a designated person for Child Protection.

SECTION a - Immediate Action

School based staff

1. If a member of staff suspects that a child has been abused, the headteacher (or deputy in his/her absence) must be immediately informed of the concern.
2. The headteacher, or in his/her absence deputy headteacher, or designated person for child protection co-ordinator, should inform by telephone, without delay, the manager or duty social worker of the childcare team at the local Social Services office.
3. It is important that the referral is made with reference to "Child Protection Procedures".
4. The local Community Health department must also be informed.
5. Information should be provided about the child's name, address, date of birth, name and address of those with parental responsibility and reasons for the concern.
6. The referral should be confirmed in writing using the form **CHILD PROTECTION - EDUCATION** and a copy dispatched the same day to the Director of Education and Children's Services and Recreation - marked **confidential** for the attention of the Services to Young People Manager.

7. If an education social worker or school nursing sister is available, they may be able to assist with any immediate action required, but it remains the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that the action outlined above is taken.
8. The Social Services department should advise what action will be initiated and the position the referrer should take regarding communication with parents, i.e. at what point parents should be contacted and by whom.
9. A representative from the school and/or education department representative will normally be required to attend and participate in any resulting child protection conference.
10. If the school is unable to attend, a written report should be submitted, keeping to factual information and not opinion or rumour.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY YOUTH SERVICES STAFF

1. The member of staff who suspects a young person has been abused should follow the same procedures as indicated in Section A.
2. A departmental representative will be required to attend any resulting child protection conference.

EDUCATION SOCIAL WORKERS, EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGISTS, PERIPATETIC TEACHERS AND ANY OTHER STAFF NOT ATTACHED TO SCHOOLS.

1. If the disclosure happens whilst in a school situation, the headteacher should be immediately informed of the concern and the school-based procedures should be followed.
2. If the disclosure or concern is "out of the school situation" the same procedures should be followed without delay described for headteachers in Section A.
3. The employee concerned should inform his or her line manager of the action taken and confirm this in writing to the Services to Young People Manager on the form shown on Page 113.

The referrer should also, at the earliest opportunity, inform the headteacher of this action.