

Confidentiality

Problems can arise when a child consults a member of staff about a problem and does not want that information to be shared with parents - they may be embarrassed, the parent may have abused them, they may fear family break up as a result of their allegations.

Whilst staff try to encourage children to share information with their parents, there may be circumstances in which any pressure to pass the information on could result in the child keeping the problem to him or herself, or not sharing concerns in the future.

Although we cannot promise complete confidentiality, we always try to act in the best interests of the child and to encourage the fullest possible involvement and consultation with parents.

Useful Contact Numbers

Social Work Services

Duty Child Protection Team , Perth

01738 476768

Out of Hours Social Work

0845 30 111 20

Police

01738 892912

Or in an emergency dial 999

The lead Child Protection Officer in our school is:

Tel: _____

School: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Schools Information



CHILD
PROTECTION
INFORMATION
FOR
PARENTS

Put
School
Logo
Here

Put School Name Here

CHILD PROTECTION

In recent years there has been increased public concern and changes in the law regarding child protection

The Government has made it clear that child protection is everyone's responsibility and that all workers, including those in schools, must report concerns about child abuse to a senior member of staff and/or the Social Work Department.

Each school now has a designated Child Protection Officer. These are teachers who are specially trained and have responsibility for child protection.

As part of on-going training all members of staff are aware of the policy guidelines and procedures, and some members of the Guidance team have additional in-depth training and knowledge.

Definition of Child Abuse

Child abuse is "the mistreatment or neglect of a child resulting in injury or harm". This may occur physically, emotionally, sexually or through acts of omission, or through witnessing pornography, sexual acts or violence.

School staff receive training on child abuse and will work with children, families and other relevant agencies to support children and families where there are concerns about abuse and neglect.

Procedures

If a member of staff suspects child abuse, the following procedures are in place:-

- ◆ The member of staff will discuss their concerns with the Child Protection Officer who will decide what action to take.

The Child Protection Officer may then contact the child's parent(s) to discuss the concern and agree what needs to happen next.

- ◆ The Child Protection Officer may decide that the concern is so serious that they need to seek advice from the Social Work Department before speaking to the child's parent(s). This only happens in very serious and unusual circumstances. The Child Protection Officer will normally contact you before speaking to the Social Work Department.
- ◆ If there is a concern of a child protection nature in school you will be contacted by the Child Protection Officer, or Social Work Department.

Social Work and school staff will work closely with the child and parents to help to improve the situation

If You Are Concerned About A Child

All children and young people have the right to be protected and safe from harm. We all have a responsibility to help them keep safe.

You may see or hear something which makes you worry about a child's care, welfare or safety. If so, please get in touch with Social Work or the Police using the contact numbers at the back of this leaflet.