


As a parent or carer you may sometimes feel alone but there is usually somebody you can talk to. Caring for children is not always easy and if you're struggling to cope you may need to ask for help and support to protect your child.

You may find the following helpful:

- make time to talk and listen to your child;
- familiarise yourself with your child's friends and routine;
- be sensitive to changes in behaviour;
- teach your child to feel confident to refuse to do anything they feel is wrong;
- be aware of your child's use of the internet and mobile phone to ensure they don't place themselves at risk.

For advice or any concerns please contact one of the NSPCC counsellors on **0808 800 5000**, help@nspcc.org.uk or text **88858**.

	
Policy Agreed Date: September 2022	
Review Date: Annually	
Chair of Governors	Mrs Carys Davies
Child Protection Governor	Mrs Eleri Harper
Headteacher	Mrs Lora Sockett
Staff Responsible	Miss B Evans- Cynddelw Miss S Roscoe -Llanarmon

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Child Protection Information for Parents and Carers

Definition of Child Abuse

A child is abused or neglected when somebody inflicts 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 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.

On 1 September 2006, section 175 of the Education Act 2002 came into effect. This introduces a duty on local authorities, the governing bodies of maintained schools, and the governing bodies of further education institutions, to have arrangements in place to ensure they safeguard children and that such arrangements take account of guidance issued by the Welsh Government.

Where a professional has a concern about a child, they will, in general, seek to discuss this with the family and, where possible, seek their agreement to making a referral to social services. However, this should only be done where such a discussion and agreement will not place a child at increased risk of significant harm. That advice will be provided by the local social services department in consultation, where appropriate, with the police.

Information for Parents and Carers

Parents/carers should be aware that schools have a responsibility to ensure the well-being of all pupils.

This responsibility means that the school:

- will have a child protection policy and procedures;
- should make parents or carers aware of its child protection policy possibly through the school prospectus, and that this may require their child to be referred to the statutory child welfare agencies, if they believe that the child or other children may be at risk of significant harm;
- should endeavour to work with parents/carers regarding the welfare of their child and remain impartial if their child is being, or has been referred;
- should help parents or carers understand that if a referral is made to social services or the police, it has been made in the best interests of the child and that the school will be involved in any protection enquiry or police investigation in relation to their child's welfare and educational progress; and
- keep parents or carers informed of the welfare and educational progress of the child.

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 caregiver fabricates or induces illness in a child whom they are looking after.

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, for example by witnessing domestic abuse within the home **or being bullied**, 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.

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

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 caregiver 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.

In addition, neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.