



WALKER MEMORIAL
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child Protection

W: working together

A: to Achieve

L: happy Life, long learners
nurturing

K: Kindness

E: Excellence

+

R: Respect

CHILD PROTECTION

Policy and Practice

In compliance with Department of Education Circular 1999/10, 2003/13, 2006/6-9 and 2006/25 the following procedures are directed to all those with access to the children of Walker Memorial PS i.e. parents, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, peripatetic staff, Governors and all visitors to this school.

Schools have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of pupils in their charge and Walker Memorial PS, like other schools, undertakes this under the umbrella of their Pastoral Care policy. Schools have a moral and legal responsibility to report concerns where cases of child abuse or suspected child abuse come to their attention. Child abuse covers the following areas:- Neglect, Physical, Sexual, Emotional & Exploitation Abuse. Where the situation is not covered by the above categories the terminology used is "Grave Concern".

All schools have a "Designated Teacher" for Child Protection; in this school it is Mrs Beckett. In the absence of Mrs Beckett matter should be referred to the deputy "Designated Teacher". In Walker Memorial P.S this person is the Year 4/5 teacher Mrs Flack.

Both members of staff have received the latest training on Child Protection. The Designated Teacher has inducted all other staff.

All our staff and volunteers in line with Circulars 1999/10 and the recent Circulars 2006/6 - 9, 25 have been subject to appropriate background checks.

Where a member of staff has concerns about a child, those concerns will be reported to the "Designated Teacher", who will decide on the action to be taken, and follow the procedures laid down by the Department of Education and EANI: Southern Region. In the absence of the Designated Teacher, the matter should be referred to the deputy Designated Teacher. A parent or any other adult who has concerns for a child at the school should follow the same procedures.

Under no circumstances will any accusation be made against, about, or to any person; nor would any language be used that would give any child, parent or guardian any cause for anxiety. Should any person question a referral, the designated teacher will point to the procedures, and the obligation of the school to conform to them.

The school will hold records on Child Protection. These records will include:

- suspicions of abuse and disclosure of abuse
- complaints against adults/staff
- numbers of referrals made to Social Services
- numbers of children on Child Protection Register

All records will be held in a secure location

Statement on Child Protection

The school, in exercising its pastoral responsibility towards the children in the school, will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.

The designated teacher with specific responsibility for child protection is the Mrs Beckett. In the absence of Mrs Beckett the matter should be referred to the deputy "Designated Teacher". In Walker Memorial P.S this person is the Year 4/5 teacher Mrs Flack.

Where any member of staff becomes aware of, or is alerted to possible abuse, the following procedure will be followed.

- 1) The matter is reported to the designated teacher using the appropriate form (Matter of Concern report)
- 2) The matter is reported to the Principal.
- 3) The matter is reported to Social Services on form CP1 (to be found in the Child Protection file).
- 4) The matter is reported to the board's designated officer using the appropriate form. The form should be forwarded in a sealed envelope and marked for the attention of the designated officer.
- 5) The Chairman of the Board of Governors is notified.
- 6) Written records will be kept of any information relating to the cause for concern. Records will be stored in a secure location.
- 7) In the case of suspected child abuse involving a member of staff employed in the school, the case will be referred directly to the board's designated officer.
- 8) In consultation with the EANI: Southern Region, and notifying the Chairman of the Board of Governors, where an arrestible offence is suspected a referral will be made to the police.

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.

Preventative Curriculum

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

The school will therefore:

- establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
- include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PDMU which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse, and information about who to turn for help;
- include in the curriculum material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to child care and parenting skills.

If any member of staff feels unsure about what to do if he/she has concerns about a child or unsure about being able to recognise the signs or symptoms of possible abuse, he/she should speak to the DT.

If for whatever reason, a person feels that he/she cannot raise the matter with the DT or DDT then advice from a Board Officer should be sought.

When in doubt always ask for advice

- EANI: Southern Region Child Protection support service for schools
028 38341975: Link Officer is Catherine Anderson

Access to the internet and Digital Recording Media

Use of the above has been carefully considered and is monitored at all times.

- The Class 2K network in use in Walker Memorial Primary School is protected and filtered. Children are unable to access unsuitable sites.
- Teacher guidance on the use of the Internet is provided to pupils. Children are warned about sites which may be deemed unsuitable.
- Use of the Internet is monitored at all times and supervised by a member of staff.
- Mobiles phones are not permitted for pupil use during school hours. Phones used in breach of this regulation will be retained by teacher until parent is contacted and then returned. Cameras on such phones are not permitted to be used in school **AT ANY TIME**.
- All parents/guardians are asked to give written permission for their child's photographs to be taken and may be used in school/ in the press etc. The school office holds a list of all permission granted.

This policy should be read alongside the school anti bullying policy and the code of conduct for staff and volunteers.

Definition of Child Abuse

"Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger. There are different types of a abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them."

ACPC Regional Policy and Procedures 2005

Definition of Neglect

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. Children who are neglected often also suffer from other types of abuse.

Signs and Symptoms of Neglect

- Constant hunger
- Exposed to danger; lack of supervision
- Inadequate/ inappropriate clothing
- Poor hygiene
- Untreated illnesses
- Persistent tiredness
- Chronic head lice
- Soiling themselves
- Speech and language delay
- Poor dental health
- Inappropriate viewing on television, DVD's, Video games etc.
- Regular unexplained absenteeism
- Listlessness
- Lack of peer relationships
- Low self-esteem
- Compulsive stealing/begging

No list of symptoms can be exhaustive

Definition of Emotional Abuse

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving a child opportunities to express their

views, deliberately silencing them, or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate.

Emotional abuse may involve bullying-including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones-by a child's peers

Signs and Symptoms of Emotional Abuse

- Sudden speech disorders
- Wetting and soiling
- Signs of self harm
- Frequent vomiting
- Rocking, thumb sucking
- Fear of change
- Chronic runaway
- Poor peer relationships
- Attention seeking behaviour

No list of symptoms can be exhaustive

Definition of Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is the **deliberate** physical injury to a child, or the **wilful or neglectful** failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating a child.

Signs and Symptoms of Physical Abuse

- Scratches
- Bite marks or welts
- Bruises in difficult places to mark (behind ears, groin)
- Burns
- Untreated injuries
- Self harm tendencies
- Chronic runaway
- Aggressive or withdrawn
- Fear of returning home
- Undue fear of adults
- Fearful watchfulness

No list of symptoms can be exhaustive

Definition of Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including penetration (for example rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing.

Signs and symptoms of Sexual Abuse

- Soreness or bleeding in genital or anal areas
- Itching in genital areas

- Stained or bloody underwear
- Stomach pains or headaches
- Pain on urination
- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Bruises on inner thighs or buttocks
- Anorexic / bulimic
- Chronic depression
- Inappropriate language, sexual knowledge for age group
- Making sexual advances to adults or other children
- Low self esteem
- Afraid of the dark
- Wariness of being approached by anyone
- Substance abuse
- Risk taking behaviours
- Displaying different personalities

No list of symptoms can be exhaustive

Definition of Exploitation Abuse

Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person: to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking.

It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. This can be sexual in nature.

The Children's Gateway Team Number:

Staff: 028 79651020

Parents: 0800 783 7745

Chair of Safeguarding Team: Ms L Patterson (Principal)

Designated Teacher: Mrs Beckett (2016)

DDT: Mrs Flack

Board of Governors:

Distributed to Parents: November 2016

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