

Moorthorpe Primary Child Protection



Information for Staff

Contents.....

Section one

Summary of the policy

What to do if a child discloses

Section two

Types of abuse

Section Three

What happens after an allegation has been reported

Section one - Child Protection - information for staff

Summary of Moorthorpe Primary School's Child Protection Policy for Staff.

Any member of school staff hearing an allegation from a child that abuse has, or may have, occurred should:

RECEIVE

- What is said;
- Accept what you are told - you do not need to decide whether or not it is true;
- Listen without displaying shock or disbelief.

REASSURE

- The pupil;
- Acknowledge their courage in telling;
- Do not promise confidentiality;
- Remind them they are not to blame - avoid criticising the alleged perpetrator;
- Do not promise that "everything will be alright now" (it might not be).

REACT

- Respond to the pupil but do not interrogate;
- Avoid leading questions but ask open ended ones;
- Clarify anything you do not understand;
- Explain what you will do next i.e. inform **Margaret Wildey** the Designated Person for Child Protection. In the event that Margaret Wildey is not available then this information should be passed to the SENCO

RECORD

- Make notes as soon as possible - during the interview if you can;
- Include:
 - Time;
 - Date;
 - Place;
 - The pupils own words - do not assume - ask e.g. "Please tell me what xxxxx means".
- Describe observable behaviour;
- Do not destroy your original notes - they may be needed later on.

SUPPORT

- Consider what support is needed for the pupil - you may need to give them a lot of your time;
- Ensure you are supported - such interviews can be extremely stressful and time consuming;
- Talk to your head teacher / designated person;

Section 2 - Categories of Abuse:

Sexual Abuse:

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child understands what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. This includes:

- Child sexual exploitation.
- Exposure to pornographic images.
- Encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

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 carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using terms such as Fabricated or Induced Illness.

Emotional Abuse:

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child which causes 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 insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on a child, including:

- Interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability.
- Over - protection and limitation of exploration and learning
- Preventing the child participating in normal social interaction
- The child seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another e.g. domestic abuse
- Serious bullying, causing children to feel frequently frightened or in danger

Some level of emotional abuse is usually present in all types of child abuse though it may occur independently.

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 a child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional 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.

Section 3 - What happens next....

- If you hear or see anything that concerns you then this must be logged on one of the green forms.
- The green form should be passed immediately to the designated person for child protection (Miss Hudson), or the deputy (Mrs Pollard).
- They will then make a decision regarding the appropriate action and using the "Thresholds" document to make a referral to social services.
- All cases will be discussed at weekly meetings between the learning mentor, and child protection officers.

If it is deemed necessary to make a referral then the designated person will make a phone call to Social Care Direct. This will be followed up by an e-mail in order to confirm. Social services and the police (where appropriate) will follow up the referral. School will make contact with the relevant services in order to ensure that feedback is given.