

Informing Parents

If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents will be informed except where Child Protection guidance does not permit this. This will usually be the case where the parent is the likely abuser. In these circumstances Social Services or police investigators will inform the parents.

What happens next?

When a child reports abuse or a member of staff suspects abuse the Headteacher must contact social services giving details of the allegation.

- The school will continue to welcome the child and the family whilst allegations of abuse are investigated.
- The school will only share confidential information with the appropriate agencies.

Supporting Children

Children who have been abused often carry some sense of blame. Their behaviour may be challenging or they may become withdrawn. We aim to support children through a pastoral support programme or by involving other professional agencies.

Working with families

If, following social services and / or police investigations, a child is considered to be at significant risk of harm, the child will be registered as 'A Child in need of protection.' In these circumstances, families will be required to work with a team of professionals to address the issues which led to the initial

referral. Regular meetings will be held to monitor the plan which will include school staff, an allocated social worker, health workers and any other relevant professionals.

In extreme cases of child abuse a child may be placed in social services care.

If pupils change schools, all records will be transferred to the receiving school.

Common Assessment Framework

There may be occasions when a child or a family requires the services of another agency. It is often a condition of referral that a CAF is completed prior to the involvement of that agency. The CAF or common assessment framework is a form used to collect information to create a written record about the needs of a child based on discussions with the child, their family and other agencies as appropriate. The CAF reduces the need for repeated assessments. Where a child has a CAF completed, regular meetings will be held to monitor the involvement of the professionals involved and the impact it has on the child.

Self Referral

We are happy to support families wishing to access additional services but parents may wish to approach agencies independently of the school.

Bentley Children's Centre.....821020

Education Welfare.....737258

ChildLine0800 1111

Toll Bar Primary School

Child Protection



Keeping Children Safe

This information has been provided to make parents/Carers aware of the procedures in place to deal with incidents relating to Child protection.

A full copy of the Child Protection Policy is available on request at the school office.

Children have the right to be protected from harm and it is the responsibility of all members of the school community to be alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse and to follow the correct procedures in order to ensure that children remain safe.

At Toll Bar Primary School we aim to: -

- Ensure that all adults working with children have been appropriately checked
- Keep the building and premises secure allowing only authorized access.
- Follow procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, or suspected cases of abuse.
- Monitor and support children who have been subjected to abuse.
- Work effectively with other agencies concerned with the safeguarding of children
- Provide **all staff** with up to date training in child protection procedures.

Confidentiality

All matters relating to child protection are confidential. However staff will not promise a child or another person reporting abuse or suspected abuse that the information will not be passed on. Staff have a professional responsibility to report on all disclosures to the Headteacher. Information relating to child protection may be shared with other professional agencies.

Within a school environment staff have day to day contact with children and are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. We acknowledge that children may sustain accidental injuries and it is important that parents/carers make staff aware of any such injuries. It is however not just physical injuries which may give cause for concern.

Types of Abuse:

Physical Abuse

This is any non-accidental physical injury which may include:

- Hitting
- Shaking
- Poisoning
- Burning/Scalding
- Drowning
- Suffocating
- Fabricating illness

Neglect

This is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. This may include:

- Failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing
- Failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger.
- Failure to access appropriate medical care or treatment
- Failure to respond to children's emotional needs.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing children to participate in sexual activity including the exploitation of children through pornographic materials.

Emotional Abuse

Persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child which may adversely affect their emotional development. This may include:

- Making children feel worthless, unloved or inadequate
- Unrealistic expectations for their age
- Causing children to feel frightened or in danger

Children who witness domestic violence or who are adversely affected by their parents' use or misuse of drugs and alcohol are considered to be 'at risk' under child protection guidelines.

How do we respond to allegations?

Every school has a designated person who is responsible for child protection. The Headteacher is the designated person.

- When an allegation is made, the member of staff will record the details in writing using the words of the child or adult reporting the incident
- Children will not be questioned or asked to give explicit details
- Details of injuries will be recorded
- Details of witnesses will be recorded
- All information will be passed on to the Headteacher