



CHILD PROTECTION: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.

Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment.

Designated Person: Miss Ley

Deputy Designated Persons: Mrs Slade, Mrs Bonard, Mrs Payne, Miss Alderson, Mrs Adjei

All schools have a legal duty to work with other agencies, for example social *care* and the police, to safeguard children's welfare.

This leaflet *explains what this* means in practice. It also tells you where you can get more information or help.

Quick guide:

Notre Dame RC School has:-

- A senior member of staff who is responsible for child protection matters affecting pupils
- A Child Protection Policy
- Procedures to deal with any child protection issue arising
- Follow the law and local child protection procedures
- Pass on any child protection concerns to Children's Social Care – sharing any relevant information

Notre Dame RC School Will:-

- arrange for parents/carers to be told of any Social care involvement at the earliest opportunity

You can find out more below:

Notre Dame RC School has:-

- **A senior member of staff** who is **responsible for child protection** matters affecting pupils at the school (the Designated Person)
- **A Child Protection Policy**, which explains how your school deals with child protection concerns, including allegations about the behaviour of members of staff. You can ask for a copy of this if you would like to see it, and/or it can be downloaded from the school website.

Schools must follow:-

- The law
- Guidance from the Department of Education and Skills
- Local multi-agency child protection procedures
- Notes and information for Designated Persons

If the school is worried about a pupil the Designated Person must refer this on to the Advice and Assessment Team at Ballard House.

- The School will normally let the pupil's parent(s) or carer(s) know when they do this. But they *will* not contact parents if they think that this could put a child or young person at risk of harm.
- **When a School refers a child protection concern** to a social worker, they must share all relevant information about the pupil.
- The Data Protection Act allows schools to share information with other agencies when there are child protection concerns about a child or young person.

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- **Within 24 hours** of receiving the referral, the social worker, usually in consultation with other agencies, will decide what should happen next.
- They will contact you to let you know what is happening as soon as possible.

It might be decided:-

- That **no further action** is needed

Or

- That **it needs looking into** further.

ANY ACTION TAKEN WILL DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

One of the following may be appropriate:-

- An Initial Assessment
- Child protection enquiries. This includes agencies assessing the risks to any children based upon information shared, research and talking to those concerned.
- If the referral is about an allegation about a member of staff, usually a strategy discussion will take place between the school, the local authority, social care and the police, to decide what should happen next.

You can find out more information by:-

- Looking at the Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures on the Plymouth City Council website www.plymouth.gov.uk
- Contacting the Advice and Assessment, Social Services Team at Ballard House and asking for the Duty Social Worker on Telephone: 01752 308 606
- Contacting Education Welfare Service on Telephone: 01752 307 405

Children and young people can contact Childline www.childline.org.uk Free 24-hour telephone helpline 0800 1111

These are the key documents which set out your schools responsibilities for Child Protection:

- South West Child Protection procedures
- Working together (Department of Health; Home Office; Department for Education and Employment) 2018
- S.175 Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2020
- Your school's Child Protection Policy
- What To Do If You're worried A Child Is Being Abused (Department of Health; Home Office; Department for Education and Skills) 2003