

YSGOL RHIWABON

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This policy was adopted/updated by the Governing Body on:

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

The policy will be reviewed: Autumn Term 2015

Introduction

Ysgol Rhiwabon fully recognises that, as staff are in regular and frequent contact with children they are particularly well placed to observe signs of abuse or unexplained changes in behaviour or performance, which may be indicative of it. Therefore, the school aims to be diligent in its efforts to look after each child's welfare and well-being.

Aims

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, 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.
- Include opportunities in the PSHE curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Definition of Child Abuse

Child abuse is actual harm to a child aged below 18 years, whether caused by default, or a deliberate act. The harm may be to the standard of health, development or well-being which can be reasonably expected for that child (definition of Child Abuse AWCPP 2008.)

There are 4 main categories of abuse (See Appendix 1):

- Physical Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

Procedures

If someone tells a member of staff that they or another child or young person is being abused:

- Show that you have heard what he/she is saying, and that you take his/her allegations seriously.
- Encourage the child to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions.
- Explain what actions you must take.
- Do not give an undertaking of absolute confidentiality as staff have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know.
- Write down what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.
- Report your concerns to your line manager or (if appropriate) the member of staff in your organisation with designated responsibility for child protection.
- Ensure that your concerns are immediately reported to the duty social worker at the local office (CAFAT 01978 292039)

If a child is likely to suffer harm it is essential that urgent action is taken under the child protection procedures. These procedures are outlined in The All Wales Child Protection Procedures and the local protocol is ratified by the LSCB (Booklet - All Wales Child Protection Procedures – Schools – Revised 2008.)

When abuse is alleged or suspected the school will adopt the following procedure

- There are designated Child Protection Officers in school who will be **immediately** informed, Mrs D Hellen (Pastoral Support Manager) and Mr J Forman (Assistant Headteacher) or in the case of their absence Mr Harding (Headteacher).
- The person informed will refer information to CAFAT, Safeguarding and Support Services, (and inform the Educational Social Worker, and school nurse,) on the **same day**.
- The person informed will complete Child Protection Form/Common Referral Form and send or fax it to CAFAT – within **24 hours**, or at the earliest opportunity, following consultation with appropriate agencies.
- Take advice from CAFAT before communicating with parents.
- Attend case conferences as requested.

Where it is alleged abuse has taken place involving a member of staff:

The following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher or deputy in his or her absence should be notified immediately.
(If the allegation involves the Headteacher you may have a confidential interview with the named officer for child protection for schools ie. ESW Team Manager.)
- All suspected abuse must be reported to Safeguarding and Support.
- A senior Education Officer will be informed.
- The Chair of Governors will be consulted.

- “Agencies must not undertake their own internal enquiries but must refer on as described above. Agencies must not make their own decisions about whether a concern that involves a particular member of their own staff is a disciplinary issue or a child protection issue. Such complex considerations should only take place with the involvement of Social Services and the Police” in line with All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

Role of the Child Protection Officer

General Consideration:

Child Protection is a serious issue, particularly those who may be victims, potential victims or involved in support. Frequent situations do not appear 'Black or white' and a tension often exists between agencies. It would seem essential therefore, that the person nominated or appointed should have:

- a. A clear understanding of the importance of Child Protection and the role of the school.
- b. The ability to communicate effectively with other agencies and the ability to appreciate all relevant perspectives.
- c. The ability to relate well to pupils, parents and colleagues in order to gain their confidence.
- d. Sufficient seniority or recognition within the school in order to act on behalf of the school and in some instances brings about change if required.
- e. A willingness to develop awareness of Child Protection, particularly through training and obtaining information available in existing and future circulars.

Specifically:

The role of the co-ordinator would include:

1. Ensuring that all members of staff are aware of the appropriate Child Protection Procedures and who the designated teacher is. This is particularly important for new staff.
2. Ensuring that the proper procedures are followed.
3. Liaison with other agencies over cases of alleged abuse and the promotion of co-operative working including attendance at Case Conferences.
4. Ensuring that the designated Senior LA Officer is aware of any breakdown in communication or problems with the implementation of local procedures.
5. Maintaining appropriate records regarding cases which cause concern and subsequent action taken.
6. Ensuring that ongoing monitoring exists for pupils having been the subject of child abuse concerns and/or, placed on the Child Protection Register and made the subject of a plan involving their school or facilities.

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 carer 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.

The school is always aware of the possibility of a child suffering neglect. When concerns are raised regarding neglect, the 'Neglect Practice Guidelines' and monitoring form will be implemented. (See Appendix 2)

Responsibility and Accountability

Mrs Denise Hellen (Pastoral Support Manager) and Mr Jamie Forman (Assistant Headteacher) are named as the School's Child Protection Officers in the School Prospectus and in the Staff and Student Handbooks. The guidance is based on "All Wales Child Protection procedures – School Staff" which was revised 2008. New and temporary staff are informed of the School's Child Protection procedures by the Headteacher and formal training is provided during the next cycle of events led by Wrexham LA. The Child Protection Governor is Mrs Anne Swarbrick.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Child Protection Officer will monitor Child Protection issues in school by appropriate communication with Lead Learners, Form Tutors and the Pastoral Support Manager.

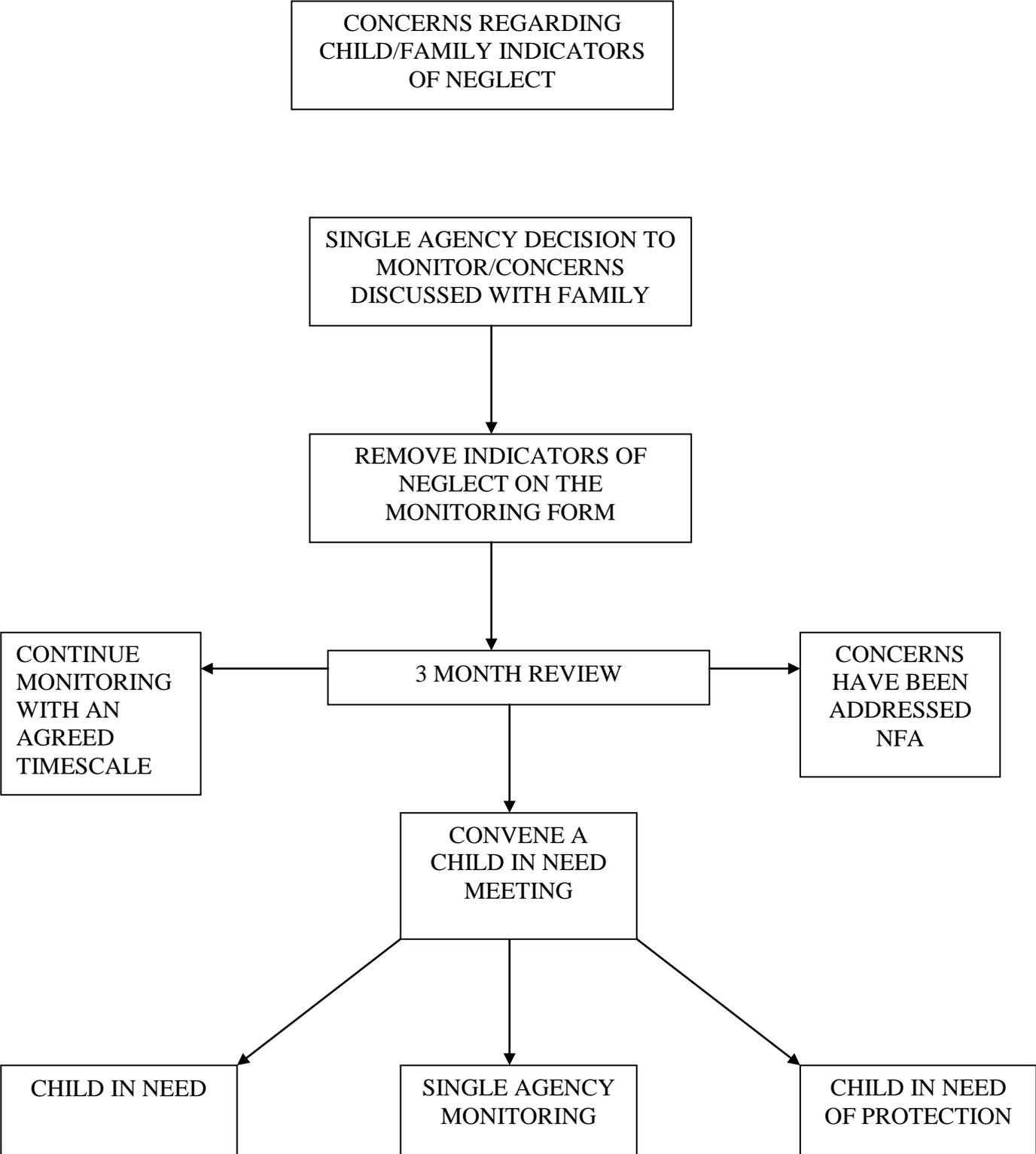
The Students' Committee of the Governing Body will monitor and evaluate this policy annually in discussion with the Headteacher.

	PHYSICAL SIGNS	BEHAVIOUR SIGNS
Physical neglect/Emotional Abuse	Neglected appearance. Often left unattended or abandoned. Unattended health/medical needs. Failure to thrive/gain weight. Consistent hunger. Poor hygiene.	Delayed development. Lethargic, tired, falls asleep. Often absent or late to school. Self-destructive. Hopelessness. Desperate attention seeker. Steals food.
Physical Abuse	Unexplained or frequent trauma, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fractures, grazes, cuts • Injuries of different ages • Burns, cigarette or immersion • Minor injuries, bruises especially to eyes or mouth. • Heavy punishment, eg. severe bruises, multiple weals, hand-shaped marks. 	Delay seeking medical advice. Hyper-critical/rigid parents. Chronic runaway. Afraid of going home. Unexplained or regular absences. Wary of physical contact. Complains of soreness. Behavioural extremes – withdrawn, wary or aggressive/disruptive.
Sexual Abuse	Sleep and eating disturbances. Medical problems eg. pain, itching, urinary infection, venereal disease. Pregnant. Sexual knowledge or curiosity or behaviour beyond child's years. Underclothes – torn, stained, bloody. Difficulty in walking or sitting – genital injuries.	Reports abuse. Fear of particular individuals. Sudden change in personality or school performance or self-esteem. Aggression or unruly behaviour. Truancy. Depressed, withdrawn, sad, listless, self-injury, suicide attempts, overdoses, running away. Guilt, shame, anger.

The above signs do not always indicate child abuse, but the possibility should be considered.

If in doubt, share your concern without delay.

Neglect Practice Guidelines



SHOULD THERE BE CONCERNS OF A CHILD PROTECTION NATURE THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

INCIDENT MONITORING FORM – ONLY FACTUAL INFORMATION TO BE RECORDED

NAME:

DOB:

ADDRESS:

DATE	INCIDENTS OF CONCERN/ POSITIVE ELEMENTS	PARENT RESPONSE CHILD'S COMMENTS	ACTION TAKEN	NAME AND SIGNATURE

The Role of the Governing Body

A governing body should:

- Have a child protection policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with local authority (LA) guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures, and the policy is made available to parents on request.
- Operate safe recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and volunteers who will work with children, including Criminal Record Bureau and List 99 checks.
- Have procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers that comply with guidance from the LA and locally agreed inter-agency procedures.
- Have a senior member of the school's leadership team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the LA, and working with other agencies.
- Ensure the Headteacher, and all other staff who work with children undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities for child protection effectively, that is kept up to date by refresher training at 3 yearly intervals, and that temporary staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the school's arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities.
- Remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses in regard to child protection arrangements that are brought to its attention without delay.
- Ensure that a member of the governing body (usually the Chair) is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA and/or partner agencies, as appropriate in the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Headteacher.
- Review its policies and procedures annually and provides information to the LA about them and about how the above duties have been discharged.
- Recognise the contribution the school can make to helping children keep safe through the teaching of self-protection skills and encouragement of responsible attitudes to adult life through the Personal, Social and Health Education/Citizenship curriculum.
- Ensure that there are safe and effective recruitment policies and disciplinary procedures in place which adhere to The Education (Prohibition from Teaching or Working with Children) Regulations 2003. A copy of the regulations can be found [here](#) and revised guidance on reporting individuals to the Secretary of State is available to download [here](#).