



West Kirby
Grammar School

Child Protection Policy

Administration Use:	
Statutory/Non-Statutory:	Statutory
Website:	Yes
GB Committee:	Quality of Education Committee
Date Reviewed by Committee:	3 November 2022
Next Review Date:	Autumn 2023

The School aims to provide a caring and secure environment in which all students can develop their full potential. Self-esteem and self-worth play vital roles in development and we, as a school, aim to promote these qualities.

It is understood that a child who is suffering from any sort of abuse, whether it be physical, sexual or emotional, including neglect, will be adversely affected, although the symptoms of such abuse may be shown in different ways.

It is also understood that any person who has knowledge or suspicion that a child has been abused or is at risk of abuse has a duty to refer their concerns to one of the agencies with statutory authority to investigate, ie Social Services Department or the Police. (The procedure for this is outlined below).

Teachers in day to day contact with children are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of possible abuse (e.g. changes in behaviour or failure to develop). Staff should be alert to these signs and in addition should listen carefully and take seriously any comments a child makes about possible abuse.

An allegation is where there is a direct statement by an individual that abuse has taken place.

A suspicion is where there are behavioural, emotional or physical factors or symptoms which indicate that child abuse may have taken place.

In every school a member of staff is designated as child protection coordinator for that school and will liaise with the Social Services Department and other agencies as appropriate. In this school, the Assistant Headteacher (Mrs K Cliffe) is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Child Protection, and the Headteacher, Mr S Clarke is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

The procedures which must be followed in cases of alleged or suspected child abuse are described below.

Procedures in the event of a suspicion or allegation

- a) In the case of suspicion of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, including neglect, make a careful note of the signs giving rise to suspicion on MyConcern and speak to the DSL.
- b) In the case of an allegation of abuse being made, the child alleging abuse should be taken very seriously and reassured that it was right to tell. The child should be taken care of. The Assistant Headteacher (Mrs K Cliffe) must be informed immediately (or in her absence the Headteacher should be informed). The concern should be logged on My Concern.

The Assistant Headteacher (or Headteacher) will inform Social Services. If, in exceptional circumstances, the Assistant Headteacher, Headteacher or another senior member of staff is not available and cannot be contacted, staff should make contact with the Integrated Front Door (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), telephone number 0151 606 2008, or the Emergency Duty Team 0151 677 6557 or the police.

The school's child protection co-ordinator (Assistant Headteacher, Mrs K Cliffe) should be informed at the earliest possible opportunity

NB

1. The Assistant Headteacher is the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Senior Lead for Child Protection.
2. Throughout this policy, the term "child" is used to indicate a child or young person under 18 years of age.
3. This policy applies to any student in our care and will include students who are over 18 years of age.
4. If you are ever in doubt about what to do, but think a child/student may be at risk, you must discuss the matter with the Assistant Headteacher (or Headteacher).