

Keeping Children Safe

This Leaflet will tell you:

- ✓ What the difference between safeguarding and child protection is.
- ✓ The four ways in which harm and/or abuse are defined.
- ✓ What your child's school does to protect and keep your child safe from harm and/or abuse.
- ✓ What you should do as a parent to protect your child so that they get the best out of their school experience.
- ✓ Who you can contact in this school to offer information if you are concerned about your own child or another child you know.

Useful Contacts

Talk to the Headteacher or Designated Lead for Safeguarding in your child's school if you are worried about a safeguarding or child protection concern.

The designated person in this school is:

The deputy person is:

The Child Protection & Safeguarding Officer at the Department of Education, Sport & Culture is Gráinne Burns. You can contact her on grainne.burns@sch.im

More information about Safeguarding Children can be obtained from the Isle of Man Safeguarding Children's Board website at: <http://www.isleofmanscb.im> or from your child's school website.



Keeping Children Safe:

Safeguarding & Child Protection
in your Child's School



Information for Parents Primary Schools

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Keeping Children Safe From Harm

Proactive safeguarding covers the policies and procedures put in place that tell everyone how they should behave to keep everyone safe. Child Protection is the **duty** we have to act if we are concerned a child is being harmed.

Everybody has a responsibility to keep children under 18 years of age safe from harm and abuse. Harm and/or abuse is identified in four ways:

Neglect means that a child is not being properly taken care of by their parents or carers. This could be about poor hygiene or poor diet, being left alone at home, not being taken to appointments or not being sent to school.

Physical Abuse is where someone deliberately hurts, hits or injures a child.

Emotional Abuse is where someone shouts at, uses threats or makes fun of a child to make the child feel frightened, worthless or unloved. A child seeing violence between parents or other people in their home can also be very harmful.

Sexual Abuse is where someone influences, involves or forces a child to look at or take part in sexual activities. This could include encouraging unwanted touching, involving a child in watching pornography or forcing a child or young person under the age of consent to have sex.

Young people may experience any of the above from adults and sometimes their peers. Abuse is increasingly being conducted online.

Schools

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe from harm or abuse. School will help a child learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons in school can cover road safety, bullying, relationships, age appropriate sex education, drug and alcohol awareness, healthy eating and any other area that raises concern about a young person's safety.

A child will be told what to do and who they can talk to if they are worried or concerned about anything raised in these lessons which may include what is happening to them at home or in the community.

Everyone employed in a school will be vetted, and staff and volunteers will be trained in how to identify abuse, and what must be done if they or someone else is worried about a child. The teachers who have responsibility for dealing with child protection in a school are known as Designated Safeguarding Leads.

All schools have policies and procedures outlining how everyone - adults and children, should behave and what the consequences may be of not adhering to the policy. This includes a child protection policy. It explains the actions that must be taken if either of you are worried or concerned about a child. This will include how concerns are recorded and how they might be reported to social services or the police.

School staff will listen to, and work closely with parents to make sure their child feels safe and protected in school.

Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your child safe. Children are only in school around 20% of their life, so schools cannot know everything about your child's life. As a parent you should:

- ✓ Talk to the school if you need help or support.
- ✓ Feel confident about raising any concerns you have in relation to your child.
- ✓ Read your School's E-safety, Anti Bullying, Behaviour and Child Protection Policies.
- ✓ Inform the school if your child has any medical conditions or educational needs. Please be honest as we can put strategies in place to keep your child safe if we know. We recognise these needs may change throughout the school year.
- ✓ Make the school aware of any Court Orders relating to your protection or your child's protection. This ensures school is vigilant to ensure the safety of your child
- ✓ Inform the school if there is any change in your child's circumstances for example; change of address, change of name, change of parental responsibility.

Parents should tell the teacher if there are any changes to arrangements about who brings their child to, and collects their child from school.

Parents should contact the school if their child is absent. This assures the school that you know about the absence. You have a statutory duty to ensure your child attends school.