

Keeping Children Safe

This Leaflet will tell you:

- ✓ The four ways in which harm and/or abuse is defined.
- ✓ What your child's school must do to protect and keep your child safe from harm and/or abuse.
- ✓ What you must do as a parent to protect your child so that they get the best out of their school experience.
- ✓ Who you can contact for further information about child protection in schools.



Useful Contacts

Always talk to the Principal or the Designated Teacher for Child Protection in your child's school if you are worried about a safeguarding or child protection concern.

Find out the name of your designated teacher for child protection.

The designated teacher in my school is _____

More information about Child Protection in education can be obtained from the Department of Education's website at

www.deni.gov.uk

or from any of the five education and library boards' websites

Belfast Education and Library Board

www.belb.org.uk

North Eastern Education and Library Board

www.neelb.org.uk

South Eastern Education and Library Board

www.seelb.org.uk

Southern Education and Library Board

www.selb.org

Western Education and Library Board

www.welb.org

Keeping Children Safe: Child Protection in Education



Information for Parents

Child Protection

Keeping Children Safe From Harm

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. 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.



Schools

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe and protected from harm or abuse. Schoolwork will help a child learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons in school can cover drug and alcohol awareness, healthy eating, road safety, relationships, sex education and bullying.

A child will be told what to do if they are worried or concerned about harm or abuse.

Everyone employed in a school will be vetted (checked by the police) and staff and volunteers will be trained in how to identify abuse including 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 Teachers for Child Protection**.

A school will give you their child protection policy. It will explain the actions that you or the school must take 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 the school environment.

Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your child safe. 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 Pastoral Care, Anti Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Internet and Child Protection Policies.
- ✓ Inform the school if your child has any medical conditions or educational needs.
- ✓ Make the school aware of any Court Orders relating to your protection or your child's protection.
- ✓ 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 of primary school children 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, then ring or send in a note on the child's return to school. This assures the school that you know about the absence.

