

In almost all circumstances, we will talk to you about our concerns and we will also tell you if we feel we must refer our concerns to children's social care. We will ask your consent to make a referral, but in some circumstances we may need to make the referral against your wishes. We will only do this if we genuinely believe this is the best way to protect your child.

If we think talking to you first might in some way increase the risk to your child, we will report our concerns to children's social care and take advice from them. We will normally tell you that a referral is being made and we will record the reasons why we decided to follow this course of action.

All child protection records are stored in a locked cabinet/ drawer and if stored on the computer is password protected. The only staff that have access to these records are those who need to know about the concerns in order to protect and support your child.

Child protection is a very sensitive issue and raises many questions and a range of strong emotions. We will do everything we can to support our pupils and you can be assured that any action taken will be in the best interests of your child.

Below we have listed important numbers for support and help:

Sources of support and information

Child Protection/ bullying - national

- NSPCC helpline: 0808 8005000 - www.nspcc.org.uk/Helpline
- Childline: 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
- Child law advice line - 0300 330 5480 - www.childlawadvice.org.uk
- Kidscape - 020 7823 5430 - www.kidscape.org.uk or email info@kidscape.org.uk

Mental Health - national

- Young minds: 0808 802 5544 - www.youngminds.org.uk
- Mental Health Foundation: 029 2167 9400/ 020 7803 1100 - www.mentalhealth.org.uk
- Mind : 0300 123 393 or text: 86463

Internet safety - national

- ChildNet International - 020 7639 6967 - www.childnet.com or email info@childnet.com
- Child exploitation and Online Protection - www.ceop.police.uk
- Internet Watch Foundation - 01223 203030 - www.iwf.org.uk
- Think u know - www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Sexual harm/ harmful Behaviour

- Stop it Now! - 0808 1000 900 - www.stopitnow.org.uk or email contact@stopitnow.org.uk

Parents support - National

Parenting and Family Support - 0808 800 2222 - www.familylives.org.uk



Ysgol Gynradd Ynysfach Safeguarding Information for Parents



Introduction

Our school recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. We will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We will be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and will follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

We have put together this information about how we meet our safeguarding and child protection responsibilities. We have also included some tips to help you keep your child safe.

If you have any questions about this information, or if you would like to see our child protection policy please contact Mr P. Morgan or visit our website.

We help to keep pupils safe by:

- ❖ Having an up to date Child protection policy
- ❖ Having other safeguarding policies, such as antibullying and e-safety.
- ❖ Checking the suitability of all our staff to work with children
- ❖ Encouraging pupils to tell us if something is wrong
- ❖ Adhering to health and safety regulations
- ❖ Training all staff to recognise and respond to child welfare concerns
- ❖ Appointing a designated person who has additional training in child protection
- ❖ Working in partnership with parents and carers
- ❖ Sharing information with appropriate agencies
- ❖ Managing and supporting our staff team.

Internet and mobile phone safety

Mobile phones and the internet are part of everyday life for many children and young people. Used correctly they are an exciting source of communication, fun and educational but used incorrectly, or in the wrong hands they can be threatening and dangerous.

The risks include:

- Cyber-bullying, where hurtful texts or emails are sent to children
- Children accidentally or deliberately access violent or sexual explicit websites.
- Paedophiles talking to children and enticing them to release personal information, engage in sexual conversations, photographs, videos or actual meetings.

Here are some tips to help you manage the risks.

- Try to put the computer in a family room where it will be easier for you to monitor your child's online activity.
- Ensure your child knows not to give out personal information
- Explain that some people they talk to on the internet might not be who they say they are.
- Investigate whether there are 'parental controls' available from some internet service providers
- Consider installing software that can filter out inappropriate material.
- Talk to your child about their internet use. Ask what sites they like most and why
- Impress to your child they can talk to you if they are worried about something that has happened during their internet use.
- Make it very clear that you child must never arrange to meet someone they have chatted to online without your permission.
- Check online safety and privacy settings for games
- Be aware of the age restrictions for social media - many of them are minimum age of 13 years

For further advice and information visit:

Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk

Child exploitation and online Protection Centre: www.ceop.police.uk

Stop it Now : www.stopitnow.org.uk

You may be alerted to question your child's online activity if they are:

- ❖ Spending more and more time on the internet
- ❖ Spending less time with the family or giving up previous hobbies.
- ❖ Being secretive, reluctant to talk about their internet activity, closing the screen pages when you are close by.
- ❖ Losing interest in school, regularly failing to complete homework tasks.
- ❖ Starting to talk about 'new friends' that you have not met and who do not visit your home.
- ❖ Overly possessive with their mobile phone/ computer/ iPad
- ❖ Showing fear or discomfort when they phone rings or switching it off without answering it.
- ❖ Undergoing a change in personality that you cannot attribute to any obvious cause.

Remember that none of these signs prove that your child is at risk in any way, but if you notice anything that confuses or worries you try talking things over with them. They may tell you to stop fussing but think about their demeanour and attitude as well as what they say. If you still have concerns contact one of the agencies listed in this booklet.

Child abuse and what to look for

No parent wants to think about the possibility of their child becoming a victim of abuse, and most children are never abused. Even so, it is important for parents to be aware of the possibility and to know that help is available if the unthinkable does happen. Although there is always a lot of media focus on 'stranger danger', the abduction of children is rare. You should still ensure that your child knows the rules about keeping safe.

Most children know their abusers. They may be a family member or a friend of the family, someone who works with a child or lives in the community.

There are 4 types of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect.

There are many signs or indicators that a child might be suffering from abuse. There may be injuries, but it is most likely you will notice a change in your child's behaviour.

If you notice anything that concerns you, talk to your child to see if you can find out what is happening. Remember that, if your child is being harmed, she or he might be too frightened to tell you. If a child becomes distressed or you are not happy with the explanations you could call the support numbers highlighted overleaf or speak to our designated person (Mr P. Morgan).

Some signs to look for:

- Bruise or other injuries
- Change in behaviour - withdrawn/ quiet/ on edge/ nervous
- Pain or discomfort
- Fear of a particular person or reluctance to be alone with them
- Secrecy around people/ online activities/ places they are going
- Spending increased amount of time online
- Sexual talk or knowledge beyond their years
- Losing interest in hobbies/ appearance/ family life
- Alcohol or drug taking
- Having money but not explain where it has come from
- Wetting the bed

You will find more useful information on the schools Child Protection Policy - online or in school

If your child is being bullied

We define bullying as behaviour that is deliberate, repetitive and designed to be hurtful. Bullies tend to pick on children who they think are unable to defend themselves. Bullying can be hitting, fighting, name calling, taking someone's belongings, imitating and making unkind or abusive remarks, sending abusive texts/ messages or posting unkind things online. Children may hide the fact they are being bullied because they are afraid or ashamed. But you may notice some changes:

- Their behaviour - quiet/ withdrawn/ angry
- Damaged clothing/ belongings missing
- Avoidance to go to school or playing truant
- Complaining of illnesses - head ache/ Stomach ache
- Unexplained cuts/ bruises
- Secrecy with phones/ social media

We have anti-bullying procedures that help us to identify and deal with any cases of bullying in school but bullying can also happen at home or in the community. Bullying can cause a lot of distress. If a child tells you they are being bullied at school ask for their permission to tell us. They may not have told anyone in school because they are afraid the bully will find out and it will get worse. Try to explain to them the bullying will not stop while it is kept a secret. As soon as we know it is happening we will follow our anti bullying procedures to stop it happening. It is also distressing to suspect your child is bullying others. Our anti bullying procedures include trying to support children who bully and change their behaviour **so please talk to us if you think your child needs help.**

What we will do if we have concerns about your child

If we are concerned that your child is at risk of abuse or neglect we must follow the procedures in our child protection policy. You can view this in school, on our website or request a copy at home. The procedures have been written to protect **all** pupils.

They comply with our statutory responsibilities and are designed to support pupils, families and staff. The procedures are based on the principle that the welfare of the child is the most important consideration.

