



GOOSEWELL SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION AND OUR SCHOOL

Information for parents and young people

Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.

Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment.

All schools have a legal duty to work with other agencies, such as social care and the police, to safeguard children's welfare.

This leaflet explains what this means in practice. It also tells you where you can get more information or help.

Quick guide:

Goosewell School

has :

- *a senior member of staff who is responsible for child protection matters affecting pupils*
- *a Child Protection Policy*
- *procedures to deal with any child protection issue arising*

must :

- *follow the law and local child protection procedures*
- *pass on any child protection concerns to Children's Social Care - sharing any relevant information*

will :

- *arrange for parents/carers to be told of any Social Care involvement at the earliest opportunity*

You can ***find out more below.***

Detail:

- **Goosewell School**

- Mr Stephens, Senior Designated Person, is responsible for child protection matters affecting pupils at the school.
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- Mrs Soper, Mrs Hampshire and Mrs Honywill are Deputy Designated Persons.
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- The School Governor with responsibility for ensuring safeguarding practices are effective in Kerry Libby.
- a **Child Protection Policy**, which explains how our school deals with child protection concerns, including allegations about the behaviour of members of staff.

You can ask for a copy of this if you would like to see it.

- **Schools must follow:**
 - the law
 - guidance from the Department of Education
 - local multi-agency child protection procedures
 - notes and information for Designated Persons

- **If the school is worried about a pupil**, the Designated Person must refer this on to the Advice & Assessment Team at Midland House.
 - The School will normally let the pupil's parent(s) or carer(s) know when they do this. But they *will* not contact parents if they think that this could put a child or young person at risk of harm.

- **When a school refers a child protection concern** to a social worker, they must share all relevant information about the pupil.
 - The Data Protection Act allows schools to share personal information with other agencies when there are child protection concerns about a child or young person.

- **Within 24 hours** of receiving the referral, the social worker, usually in consultation with other agencies, will decide what should happen next.
 - They will contact you to let you know what is happening as soon as possible.

- **It might be decided :**
 - that **no further action** is needed

or

 - that **it needs looking into** further.

Any action taken will depend on the circumstances.

One of the following may be appropriate:

- An Initial Assessment
- Child protection enquiries. This includes agencies assessing the risks to any children based upon information shared, research and talking to those concerned.
- If the referral is about an allegation about a member of staff, usually a strategy discussion will take place between the school, the *local authority*, *social care* and the police, to decide what should happen next.

You can find more information by:

- Looking at the Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures on the Plymouth City Council website www.plymouth.gov.uk
- *Looking at the Department for Education website*
www.parentscentre.gov.uk/schoollife/healthandwelfare/childprotection
- Contacting the Advice and Assessment, Social Services Team at Ballard House and asking for the Duty Social Worker on Telephone: 01752 308 606
- Contacting Education Welfare Service on Telephone: 01752 307 405

Children and young people can contact Childline www.childline.org.uk Free 24-hour telephone helpline 0800 1111

These are the key documents which set out your school's responsibilities for Child Protection:

- *South West Child Protection Procedures*
- Working Together (Department of Health; Home Office; Department for Education and Employment) 1999
- S. 175 Education Act 2002
- Safeguarding Children in Education (Department for Education and Skills) September 2004 (guidance attached to S175)
- Our school's Child Protection Policy
- What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (Department of Health; Home Office; Department for Education and Skills) 2003

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