

## Types of Abuse

### Physical Abuse

Is the actual or risk of physical injury to a child or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child, including deliberate poisoning, suffocation and factitious illness by proxy. This includes excessive punishment.

### Neglect

Is the actual or risk of persistent or severe neglect of a child or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation. Extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including failure to thrive.

### Sexual Abuse

Is the actual or risk of sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and/or developmentally immature. The involvement of dependent, immature children and adolescents in activities to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate the social taboos of family roles.

### Emotional Abuse

Actual or risk of severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioral development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection. It is important to remember that all abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment.

## Useful telephone numbers and websites

Hoyland Common Primary School:

01226 369640

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board

[www.safeguardingchildrenbarnsley.com](http://www.safeguardingchildrenbarnsley.com)

BMBC Social Care for Children:

Assessment Team West : 01226 772423

Emergency Duty Team : 0844 984 1800

NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Childline: 0800 1111

Mental Health Foundation: 020 7803 1100

[www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

Mind: 0845 766 0163

[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

ParentlinePlus: 0808 800 2222

[www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)



## Hoyland Common Primary School

# Safeguarding and Child Protection

A guide for parents



## **Introduction**

At Hoyland Common we believe it is of the utmost importance to have excellent systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare throughout all the activities which the school undertakes. This means that staff and volunteers must be alert to possible concerns about every pupil and to report these in the correct way. We have a safeguarding and child protection policy: parents may request a copy of this and it is available on the policies page on the school website.

## **What do we do to keep your children safe?**

HCPS ensures the safety of your child in many ways, from simple things such as having a secure building and a robust signing in procedure to ensuring all staff and volunteers are thoroughly vetted as part of their recruitment.

In addition to this the schools' senior leaders and vulnerable pupils team meet regularly to discuss any concerns. The school also works very closely with a wide range of other agencies such as Education Welfare Officers, the school nurse, health visitors, social workers, educational psychologists and even the police. This allows important information to be shared to ensure the continued safety of children at Hoyland Common.

## **It is important for parents to be aware that:**

Staff and volunteers in the school have a duty to report concerns about a child, whether this means the child may be in need of additional support or help of some kind or whether it is thought that a child may have been abused or be at risk of abuse.

In some cases the school is obliged to refer children to Social Care staff, for children to be assessed for their needs or if an investigation into possible child abuse is required. In many cases there will already have been discussions between school staff and the parents of the child, and the situation and concerns will not be a surprise to the parents.

However, parents may not be told that the school has referred their child to children's social care if it is thought that this might put the child at risk.

Children's social care tries to carry out its enquiries in a sensitive fashion. It has to gather information and generally it can be open with parents about the steps being taken.

If school staff need to express concerns about a child or refer a child to children's social care, it is understood that this can cause distress or anger for the child's parents. It is important that all parties - parents and school staff - try to discuss these matters as calmly and sensibly as possible.



## **What to do if you think a child is at risk of harm.**

If you think your child or any other child may have been abused you can contact the children's social care office or the local authority designated officer for safeguarding, direct.

If you think the abuse may have happened in school, contact the Headteacher or the designated senior person for child protection, who is Mr Banham or Mrs Harrison. If you think your child has been hurt, arrange to visit your doctor, but always remember to comfort and reassure your child.