

Child Protection Procedure

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

School staff are not responsible for investigating instances of suspected abuse, but they are responsible for referring any concern they have about a child to the appropriate person. The symptoms of child abuse may not always be visible as not all injuries are in the form of a physical injury. The main categories of abuse have been defined as: physical, neglect, sexual and emotional.

If there are any suspicions whatsoever concerning the personal safety of any student this should be passed on as a matter of extreme urgency.

If a child makes a disclosure of abuse staff should:

- Take their allegation seriously
- Allow the student to make the disclosure at their own pace and in their own way
- Avoid interrupting or asking leading questions
- Not promise the child confidentiality – there is a professional responsibility to refer on the alleged abuse
- Pass on the information as a matter of urgency

School staff should inform the appropriate Progress and Achievement Leader or the Assistant Headteacher, Student Support immediately. In the event of neither being available the Headteacher or any member of the School Management Team should be informed. The matter will then be thoroughly investigated according to the procedures and guidelines laid down by the Isle of Wight Education Department.

A copy of the full procedures can be found with the Assistant Headteacher, Student Support.