Ysgol Gynradd Maesglas

‘Empowering Young Minds for Tomorrow’

Child Protection Policy

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Ratified:	13.10.26
Review:	September 2026

The Safeguarding Policy contains all aspects of safeguarding. This policy is a brief version of the section on Child Protection. It explains the procedures based upon the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

Key principles
The key principles on which to base work with children and families are found in the *Children Act 1989* and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,* to which the UK is a signatory.

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They should be enabled to:

be as physically and mentally healthy as possible;
gain the maximum benefit possible from good quality educational opportunities;
live in a safe environment and be protected from harm; experience
emotional well-being;
feel loved and valued, and be supported by a network of reliable and affectionate
relationships;
become competent in looking after themselves and coping with everyday living;
have a positive image of themselves and a secure sense of identity, including cultural
and racial identity;
develop good inter-personal skills and confidence in social situations.

Definitions of child abuse and neglect
Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection via an inter-agency Child Protection Plan.

Physical abuse
Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation may be described as fabricated or induced illness by carer.

Emotional abuse
Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, thought it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse
Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or in watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

1.2.4 Neglect
Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Identifying and acting on concerns or suspicion of abuse

Anyone who has concerns about a child's or children's welfare should report their concerns on the school's green forms or logged on-line on My Concern. The adult logging the concern MUST inform the DSP/DDSP IMMEDIATELY, Claire Moses (Headteacher/DSP), Geraint Thomas-Blaker (Deputy Headteacher/DDSP) or Lesley Tucker (ALNCo/DDSPs). Any discussion/actions taken about a child's welfare should be recorded in writing on green form or on My Concern including a note of the date and who took part in the discussion. At the close of a discussion, there should be clear and explicit agreement about who will be taking what action, or that no further action will be taken. This agreement should also be recorded in writing. A suspicion of abuse may take the form of 'concerns' rather than 'known facts'. Concerns can and should be shared with Social Services through a referral. While concerns will not necessarily trigger an investigation in

themselves, they may help to build up a picture, along with concerns from other sources, which suggests that a child may be suffering harm.

If you suspect a child is being neglected or may be subject to any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse report the matter the school's DSP Claire Moses. (Headteacher) In the event of her absence, report the matter to the DDSP Geraint Thomas-Blaker (Deputy Head) or Lesley Tucker (ALNCo).

A referral should be made to Social Services by telephone **ASAP** 01495 762200. Do not wait for the designated person to be available if a child could be in danger when they go home. For advice beforehand, telephone the duty worker on 01633 6478323. After 5pm you need to phone the emergency duty team on 08003284432 or the police. A referral should be followed up by the paperwork within 24 hours of the referral being made so it may be appropriate to wait for the designated person before you do this.

If someone tells you that they or another child or young person is being abused:
Show that you have heard what they are saying, and that you take their allegations seriously.
Encourage the child to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions. Don't interrupt when the child is recalling significant events. Don't make the child repeat their account. TEDS – Tell me, Explain, Describe and Show what happened. Explain what actions you must take, in a way which is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child. Do not promise to keep what you have been told secret, as you have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know. Reporting concerns is not a betrayal of trust.
Write down what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.
Report your concerns to the member of staff in your organisation with designated responsibility for child protection (Claire Moses, Geraint Thomas-Blaker and Lesley Tucker).
Do not confront the alleged abuser.
Do not worry that you may be mistaken. You will always be taken seriously by Social Services. It is better to have discussed it with somebody with the experience and responsibility to make an assessment.

If the behaviour of any adult (including colleagues and members of the public) towards children or young people causes you concern:

Do not dismiss your concerns.
Do not confront the person about whom you have concerns.
If it is a person with professional responsibility for children or young people discuss your concerns with the DSP, Claire Moses. If the concern is about Claire Moses, contact Mr Mark Riley, Chair of Governors on 07711598409. If you feel that this is inappropriate, or you are not satisfied with the response that you get, contact the relevant person in your agency or Social Services. It is very important that you do not ignore or dismiss suspicions about another professional.

The Local Authority (Torfaen) Safeguarding Officer is John Tushingham and is contactable on:
01495 766932

Messages:
Better to be safe than sorry!
If you see, hear or suspect something, say something and know who to say it to!

Contact Details:

Designated Persons	Claire Moses 07850471367/Geraint Thomas-Blaker 07979195126/ Lesley Tucker 07919097337
Chair of Governors	Mark Riley 07711598409 for referrals about the Head.
Designated Safeguarding Governors	Mark Riley 07711598409 & Gaynor Evans
LA John Tushingham	01495 766932
Social Services for referrals	01633 647249 or email DTR to socialcarecalltorfaen@torfaen.gov.uk
Duty	for advice 01633 648092
Emergency Social Services	after 5pm only if child could be in danger of harm 08003284432

Claire Moses September 2026