

Ynysfach Primary School



Policy for Child Protection

Ynysfach Child Protection Policy

Ynysfach Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Ynysfach

Policy for Child Protection For Ynysfach Primary School

Date of publication:	Autumn 2017
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Designated senior person:	Mrs Karen Thomas
Deputy designated person:	Mrs Elise Groth & Mrs Jemma Pickering
Acting Headteacher:	Mrs Karen Thomas
Nominated Child Protection Governors:	Paul Doyle & Sian D'Angeli

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Introduction

This policy is one of a series in the school's integrated safeguarding portfolio. Our core safeguarding principles are:

- the school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- safer children make more successful learners
- representatives of the whole-school community of pupils, parents, staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review
- policies will be reviewed annually, unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review.

Child protection statement

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

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff and governors and are consistent with those of the local safeguarding children board (LSCB).

Policy principles

- Welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
- All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm
- Pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support

Policy aims

- To provide all staff with the necessary information to enable them to meet their child protection responsibilities
- To ensure consistent good practice
- To demonstrate the school's commitment with regard to child protection to pupils, parents and other partners
- To contribute to the school's safeguarding portfolio

Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing the impairment of health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

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Child protection refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

Child refers to all young people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers and adoptive parents.

Context

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Section 157 of the same act and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.

Research suggests that more than 10 per cent of children will suffer some form of abuse. Due to their day-to-day contact with pupils, school staff are uniquely placed to observe changes in children's behaviour and the outward signs of abuse. Children may also turn to a trusted adult in school when they are in distress or at risk. It is vital that school staff are alert to the signs of abuse and understand the procedures for reporting their concerns.

Key personnel

The designated senior person for child protection is: Mrs Karen Thomas

Contact details: 01639 710238

E Mail Address: Thomask189@hwbcymru.net

The deputy designated persons are: Mrs E Groth & Mrs J Pickering

Email Address: grothe@hwbcymru.net Pickeringj3@hwbcymru.net

Contact details: 01639 710238

The nominated child protection governor are: Paul Doyle and Sian D'Angeli.

Contact details: 01639 710238

The Acting headteacher is: Karen Thomas

Contact details: 01639 710238

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Roles and responsibilities

All schools must nominate a senior member of staff to coordinate child protection arrangements. The local authority maintains a list of all **designated senior persons** (DSPs) for child protection.

The DSP:

- is appropriately trained
- acts as a source of support and expertise to the school community
- has an understanding of LSCB procedures
- keeps written records of all concerns, ensuring that such records are stored securely and flagged on, but kept separate from, the pupil's general file
- refers cases of suspected abuse to children's social care or police as appropriate
- notifies children's social care if a child with a child protection plan is absent for more than two days without explanation
- ensures that when a pupil with a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is passed to their new school and the pupil's social worker is informed
- attends and/or contributes to child protection conferences
- coordinates the school's contribution to child protection plans
- develops effective links with relevant statutory and voluntary agencies
- ensures that all staff sign to indicate that they have read and understood the child protection policy
- ensures that the child protection policy is updated annually
- liaises with the nominated governor and headteacher (where the role is not carried out by the headteacher) as appropriate
- keeps a record of staff attendance at child protection training
- makes the child protection policy available to parents.

The deputy designated person(s) is appropriately trained and, in the absence of the designated person, carries out those functions necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of pupils. In the event of the long-term absence of the designated person, the deputy will assume all of the functions above.

The governing body ensures that the school has:

- a DSP for child protection who is a member of the senior leadership team and who has undertaken training in inter-agency working, in addition to basic child protection training
- a child protection policy and procedures that are consistent with LSCB requirements, reviewed annually and made available to parents on request
- procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against members of staff including allegations made against the headteacher
- safer recruitment procedures that include the requirement for appropriate checks
- a training strategy that ensures all staff, including the headteacher, receive child protection training, with refresher training at three-yearly intervals. The DSP should receive refresher training at two-yearly intervals
- arrangements to ensure that all temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the

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school's arrangements for child protection.

The governing body nominates a member to be responsible for liaising with the local authority and other agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the headteacher.

An annual report will be submitted to the local authority about how the governing body's duties have been carried out. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay.

The headteacher:

- ensures that the child protection policy and procedures are implemented and followed by all staff
- allocates sufficient time and resources to enable the DSP and deputy to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance at strategy discussions and other necessary meetings
- ensures that all staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistleblowing procedures
- ensures that pupils' safety and welfare is addressed through the curriculum.

Good practice guideline

To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards pupils we need to agree standards of good practice.

Good practice includes:

- treating all pupils with respect
- setting a good example by conducting ourselves appropriately
- involving pupils in decisions that affect them
- encouraging positive and safe behaviour among pupils
- being a good listener
- being alert to changes in pupils' behaviour
- recognising that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of abuse
- reading and understanding the school's child protection policy and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, physical contact and information-sharing
- asking the pupil's permission before doing anything for them of a physical nature, such as assisting with dressing, physical support during PE or administering first aid
- maintaining appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between pupils and avoiding the use of sexualised or derogatory language
- being aware that the personal and family circumstances and lifestyles of some pupils lead to an increased risk of abuse.

Abuse of trust

All school staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards pupils is unacceptable and

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that their conduct towards pupils must be beyond reproach.

In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person over the age of 18 to have a sexual relationship with a person under the age of 18, where that person is in a position of trust, even if the relationship is consensual. This means that any sexual activity between a member of the school staff and a pupil under 18 may be a criminal offence, even if that pupil is over the age of consent.

The school's Code of Ethical Practice sets out our expectations of staff (see: appendix 1).

Children who may be particularly vulnerable

Some children may have an increased risk of abuse. It is important to understand that this increase in risk is due more to societal attitudes and assumptions, and child protection procedures that fail to acknowledge children's diverse circumstances, rather than the individual child's personality, impairment or circumstances. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur.

To ensure that all of our pupils receive equal protection, we will give special consideration to children who are:

- disabled or have special educational needs
- living in a domestic abuse situation
- affected by parental substance misuse
- asylum seekers
- living away from home
- vulnerable to being bullied, or engaging in bullying
- living in temporary accommodation
- live transient lifestyles
- living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations
- vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or sexuality
- involved directly or indirectly in prostitution or child trafficking
- do not have English as a first language.

Special consideration includes the provision of safeguarding information and resources in community languages and accessible formats.

Support for those involved in a child protection issue

Child abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved. We will support pupils and their families and staff by:

- taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- nominating a link person who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact. Where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a pupil, separate link people will be nominated to avoid any conflict of interest
- responding sympathetically to any request from pupils or staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety

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- maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- storing records securely
- offering details of helplines, counselling or other avenues of external support
- following the procedures laid down in our whistleblowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- cooperating fully with relevant statutory agencies.

Complaints procedure

Our complaints procedure will be followed where a pupil or parent raises a concern about poor practice towards a pupil that initially does not reach the threshold for child protection action. Poor practice examples include unfairly singling out a pupil, using sarcasm or humiliation as a form of control, bullying or belittling a pupil or discriminating against them in some way. Complaints are managed by senior staff, the headteacher and governors. An explanation of the complaints procedure is included in the Safeguarding Information Booklet for Parents and the Safeguarding Information Booklet for Pupils.

Complaints from staff are dealt with under the school's complaints and disciplinary and grievance procedures.

If you have concerns about a colleague

Staff who are concerned about the conduct of a colleague towards a pupil are undoubtedly placed in a very difficult situation. They may worry that they have misunderstood the situation and they will wonder whether a report could jeopardise their colleague's career. All staff must remember that the welfare of the child is paramount. The school's whistleblowing code (appendix 2) enables staff to raise concerns or allegations in confidence and for a sensitive enquiry to take place. All concerns of poor practice or possible child abuse by colleagues should be reported to the headteacher. Complaints about the headteacher should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

Staff who are the subject of an allegation

When an allegation is made against a member of staff, set procedures must be followed. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events can and do happen. A child may also make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. Even so, we must accept that some professionals do pose a serious risk to pupils and we must act on every allegation. Staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.

Allegations against staff should be reported to the headteacher. Allegations against the

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headteacher should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

The full procedures for dealing with allegations against staff can be found in *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education* (pp57-67). Further information is contained in the school's disciplinary procedures and the Child Protection 'Quick Guide' file for staff.

Staff training

It is important that all staff have training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of abuse and neglect and to know what to do if they have a concern. New staff and governors will receive training during their induction. All staff, including the headteacher (unless the headteacher is the DP) and governors will receive training that is updated at least every three years and the DSP will receive training updated at least every two years, including training in inter-agency procedures. Supply staff and other visiting staff will be given the school's Visiting Staff Leaflet (see: appendix 3).

Safer recruitment

Our school endeavours to ensure that we do our utmost to employ 'safe' staff by following the guidance in *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education* (pp20-54) together with the local authority and the school's individual procedures.

Safer recruitment means that all applicants will:

- complete an application form
- provide two referees, including at least one who can comment on the applicant's suitability to work with children
- provide evidence of identity and qualifications
- be checked through the Criminal Records Bureau as appropriate to their role and be registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (from 2010 onwards)
- be interviewed.

All new members of staff will undergo an induction that includes familiarisation with the school's child protection policy and identification of their child protection training needs.

All staff sign to confirm they have received a copy of the child protection policy (see: appendix 4).

Extended school and off-site arrangements

Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own child protection policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures.

When our pupils attend off-site activities, we will check that effective child protection arrangements are in place.

Photography and images

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The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for entirely innocent, understandable and acceptable reasons. Sadly, some people abuse children through taking or using images, so we must ensure that we have some safeguards in place. To protect pupils we will:

- seek their consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in newspapers or publications)
- seek parental consent
- use only the pupil's first name with an image
- ensure pupils are appropriately dressed
- encourage pupils to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

For an example image consent form, see: appendix 5.

e-Safety

Most of our pupils will use mobile phones and computers at some time. They are a source of fun, entertainment, communication and education. However, we know that some men, women and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, webcam photography or face-to-face meetings. The school's e-safety policy explains how we try to keep pupils safe in school. Cyber-bullying by pupils, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures.

Chatrooms and social networking sites are the more obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful behaviour and pupils are not allowed to access these sites in school. Some pupils will undoubtedly be 'chatting' on mobiles or social networking sites at home and we have produced a short factsheet to help parents and pupils understand the possible risks. This can be found in the Safeguarding Information for Parents Booklet and the Safeguarding Information for Pupils Booklet.

Child protection procedures:

Recognising abuse

To ensure that our pupils are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, for example by hitting them, or by failing to act to prevent harm, for example by leaving a small child home alone, or leaving knives or matches within reach of an unattended toddler.

There are four categories of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

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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 fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child (this used to be called Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, but is now more usually referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child, such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only for meeting the needs of another person. It may feature age – or developmentally-inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, 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 maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (for example, rape, buggery or oral sex) 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 watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing or shelter, including exclusion from home or abandonment; failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; failure to ensure adequate supervision, including the use of inadequate care-takers; 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.

Definitions taken from *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government, 2006).

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Bullying

While bullying between children is not a separate category of abuse and neglect, it is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, bullying is thought to result in up to 12 child suicides each year.

All incidences of bullying should be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. All pupils and parents receive a copy of the anti-bullying procedures on joining the school and the subject of bullying is addressed at regular intervals in the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the anti-bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the headteacher and the DSP will consider implementing child protection procedures.

Indicators of abuse – what you might see

Physical signs define some types of abuse, for example, bruising, bleeding or broken bones resulting from physical or sexual abuse, or injuries sustained while a child has been inadequately supervised. The identification of physical signs is complicated, as children may go to great lengths to hide injuries, often because they are ashamed or embarrassed, or their abuser has threatened further violence or trauma if they 'tell'. It is also quite difficult for anyone without medical training to categorise injuries into accidental or deliberate with any degree of certainty. For these reasons it is vital that staff are also aware of the range of behavioural indicators of abuse and report any concerns to the designated person.

Remember, it is your responsibility to report your concerns. It is not your responsibility to investigate or decide whether a child has been abused.

A child who is being abused or neglected may:

- have bruises, bleeding, burns, fractures or other injuries
- show signs of pain or discomfort
- keep arms and legs covered, even in warm weather
- be concerned about changing for PE or swimming
- look unkempt and uncared for
- change their eating habits
- have difficulty in making or sustaining friendships
- appear fearful
- be reckless with regard to their own or other's safety
- self-harm
- frequently miss school or arrive late
- show signs of not wanting to go home
- display a change in behaviour – from quiet to aggressive, or happy-go-lucky to withdrawn
- challenge authority
- become disinterested in their school work
- be constantly tired or preoccupied
- be wary of physical contact
- be involved in, or particularly knowledgeable about drugs or alcohol

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- display sexual knowledge or behaviour beyond that normally expected for their age.

Individual indicators will rarely, in isolation, provide conclusive evidence of abuse. They should be viewed as part of a jigsaw, and each small piece of information will help the DSP to decide how to proceed. It is very important that you report your concerns – you do not need ‘absolute proof’ that the child is at risk.

Impact of abuse

The impact of child abuse should not be underestimated. Many children do recover well and go on to lead healthy, happy and productive lives, although most adult survivors agree that the emotional scars remain, however well buried. For some children, full recovery is beyond their reach, and the rest of their childhood and their adulthood may be characterised by anxiety or depression, self-harm, eating disorders, alcohol and substance misuse, unequal and destructive relationships and long-term medical or psychiatric difficulties.

Taking action

Key points to remember for taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999
- report your concern to the DSP by the end of the day
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a record of concern
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

Appendix 6 provides a flowchart for reporting a concern.

If you suspect a pupil is at risk of harm

There will be occasions when you suspect that a pupil may be at risk, but you have no ‘real’ evidence. The pupil’s behaviour may have changed, their artwork could be bizarre, they may write stories or poetry that reveal confusion or distress, or you may have noticed physical but inconclusive signs. In these circumstances, you should try to give the pupil the opportunity to talk. The signs you have noticed may be due to a variety of factors, for example, a parent has moved out, a pet has died, a grandparent is very ill. It is fine to ask the pupil if they are OK or if you can help in any way.

Use the welfare concern form (see: appendix 7) to record these early concerns. If the pupil does begin to reveal that they are being harmed you should follow the advice in the section ‘If a pupil discloses to you’.

If, following your conversation, you remain concerned, you should discuss your concerns with the designated person.

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If a pupil discloses to you

It takes a lot of courage for a child to disclose that they are being abused. They may feel ashamed, particularly if the abuse is sexual, their abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell, they may have lost all trust in adults, or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault.

If a pupil talks to you about any risks to their safety or wellbeing you will need to let them know that you must pass the information on – you are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which you do this is a matter for professional judgement. If you jump in immediately the pupil may think that you do not want to listen, if you leave it till the very end of the conversation, the pupil may feel that you have misled them into revealing more than they would have otherwise.

During your conversation with the pupil:

- Allow them to speak freely.
- Remain calm and do not over react – the pupil may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting you.
- Give reassuring nods or words of comfort – ‘I’m so sorry this has happened’, ‘I want to help’, ‘This isn’t your fault’, ‘You are doing the right thing in talking to me’.
- Do not be afraid of silences – remember how hard this must be for the pupil.
- Under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the pupil’s mother think about all this.
- At an appropriate time tell the pupil that in order to help them you must pass the information on.
- Do not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused.
- Avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying ‘I do wish you had told me about this when it started’ or ‘I can’t believe what I’m hearing’ may be your way of being supportive but the child may interpret it that they have done something wrong.
- Tell the pupil what will happen next. The pupil may agree to go with you to see the designated person. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see them before the end of the day.
- Report verbally to the designated person.
- Write up your conversation as soon as possible on the record of concern form and hand it to the designated person.
- Seek support if you feel distressed.

A record of concern form is provided in appendix 8.

Notifying parents

The school will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a pupil with their parents. This must be handled sensitively and the DSP will make contact with the parent in the event of a

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concern, suspicion or disclosure.

However, if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, then advice will first be sought from children's social care.

Referral to children's social care

The DSP will make a referral to children's social care if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm. The pupil (subject to their age and understanding) and the parents will be told that a referral is being made, unless to do so would increase the risk to the child.

Children with sexually harmful behaviour

Children may be harmed by other children or young people. Staff will be aware of the harm caused by bullying and will use the school's anti-bullying procedures where necessary. However, there will be occasions when a pupil's behaviour warrants a response under child protection rather than anti-bullying procedures. In particular, research suggests that up to 30 per cent of child sexual abuse is committed by someone under the age of 18.

The management of children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour is complex and the school will work with other relevant agencies to maintain the safety of the whole school community. Young people who display such behaviour may be victims of abuse themselves and the child protection procedures will be followed for both victim and perpetrator.

Confidentiality and sharing information

All staff will understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the pupil and staff involved but also to ensure that being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

Staff should only discuss concerns with the designated person, headteacher or chair of governors (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with Data Protection Act 1998 principles. Information is:

- processed for limited purposes
- adequate, relevant and not excessive
- accurate
- kept no longer than necessary
- processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
- secure.

Record of concern forms and other written information will be stored in a locked facility and any electronic information will be password protected and only made available to relevant

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individuals.

Every effort should be made to prevent unauthorised access and sensitive information should not be stored on laptop computers, which, by the nature of their portability, could be lost or stolen. If it is necessary to store child protection information on portable media, such as a CD or flash drive, these items should also be kept in locked storage. Child protection information will be stored separately from the pupil's school file and the school file will be 'tagged' to indicate that separate information is held.

Child protection records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. If any member of staff receives a request from a pupil or parent to see child protection records, they should refer the request to the headteacher.

The Data Protection Act does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

The school's policy on confidentiality and information-sharing is available to parents and pupils on request.

Reporting directly to child protection agencies

Staff should follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy.

However, they may also share information directly with children's social care, police or the NSPCC if:

- the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their deputy, the headteacher and the chair of governors are all unavailable
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety.

Related safeguarding policies

Physical intervention and the use of reasonable force

Complaints procedure

Anti-bullying

Appropriate physical contact

Whistleblowing

ALN

Behaviour

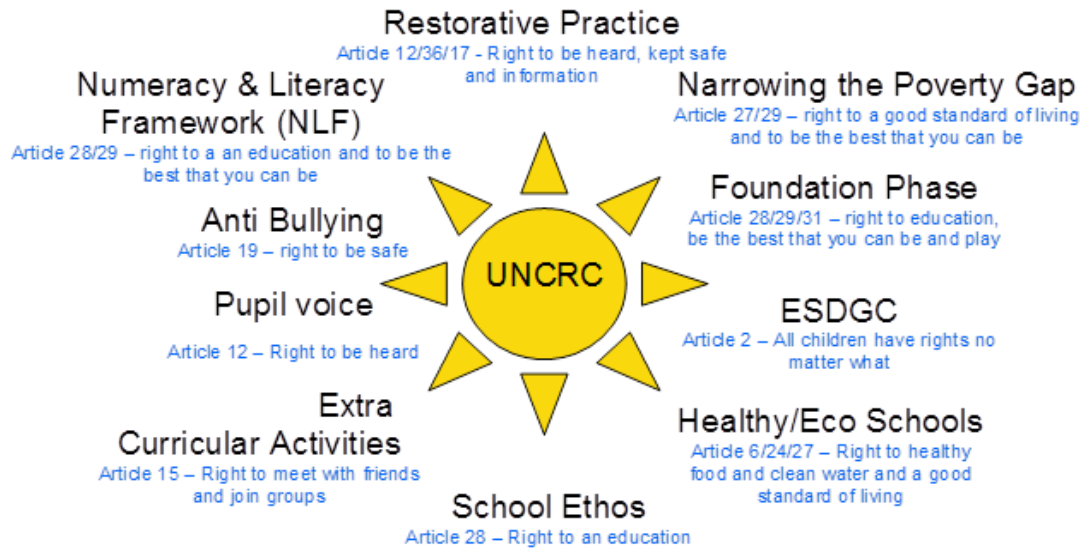
Safer recruitment

Managing allegations

Grievance and disciplinary

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Ynysfach Primary School is a Rights Respecting School



Chair of Governors Sept 25 Mr Paul Doyle

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Appendix 1

Code of ethical practice for school staff

All school staff are valued members of the school community. Everyone is expected to set and maintain the highest standards for their own performance, to work as part of a team and to be an excellent role model for our pupils.

All school staff should:

- place the safety and welfare of pupils above all other considerations
- treat all members of the school community, including pupils, parents, colleagues and governors with consideration and respect
- adhere to the principles and procedures contained in the policies in our safeguarding portfolio and in teaching and learning policies
- treat each pupil as an individual and make adjustments to meet individual need
- demonstrate a clear understanding of and commitment to non-discriminatory practice
- recognise the power imbalances between pupils and staff, and different levels of seniority of staff and ensure that power and authority are never misused
- understand that school staff are in a position of trust and that sexual relationships with a pupil, even over the age of 16, may be an offence
- be alert to, and report appropriately, any behaviour that may indicate that a pupil is at risk of harm
- encourage all pupils to reach their full potential
- never condone inappropriate behaviour by pupils or staff
- take responsibility for their own continuing professional development
- refrain from any action that would bring the school into disrepute
- value themselves and seek appropriate support for any issue that may have an adverse effect on their professional practice.

Staff name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

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Appendix 2

Whistleblowing code for issues relating to children and young people

Purpose of the code

The school adheres to the local authority whistleblowing policy and procedures that enable staff to raise concerns relating to:

- crime
- a miscarriage of justice
- illegality
- health and safety
- environmental or property damage
- unauthorised use of public funds
- concealing or attempting to cover up any of the above.

This code provides additional information to help staff to understand the role of whistleblowing in the context of poor practice and unacceptable conduct and attitudes towards children.

When to use the code

The whistleblowing procedures and this code may be used by anyone employed by the school in a paid or voluntary capacity who believes they have reason to suspect that the conduct of an employee towards a pupil is inappropriate.

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not confined to:

- bullying or humiliation
- contravening health and safety guidelines
- serious breaches of the school's code of ethical practice
- professional practice that falls short of normally accepted standards
- compromising pupils' welfare but in a way that does not meet the threshold for child protection intervention.

Reasons for blowing the whistle

Staff will naturally be reticent to report a concern about the conduct of a colleague.

However, each individual must take responsibility for ensuring that pupils are fairly treated. If poor practice is allowed to continue unchecked, it could escalate with serious consequences.

Your action not only protects pupils, but also deters any suggestion that you have colluded with poor practice that you knew was occurring but chose to ignore.

Whistleblowing can also support the member of staff who is the subject of the concern. Their conduct may result from inexperience or lack of training that can be addressed by the school, or they may be under stress and be relieved when their conduct is questioned.

Staff who deliberately fail pupils and show no remorse or desire to improve are unlikely to welcome being exposed, but their conduct has to be confronted for the sake of the pupils and the reputation of the whole school.

Barriers to whistle blowing

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You may worry that you have insufficient evidence to raise a concern, that you will set in train an unstoppable chain of events, that there will be adverse repercussions for your career, that you may suffer harassment or victimisation, or that your suspicion or concern might be totally misplaced.

These concerns are entirely understandable but you can be reassured that whistleblowing procedures addresses these issues.

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 protects employees from reprisals for public interest whistleblowing. Your union, a solicitor or the local authority legal services can provide you with information about your legal position.

Confidentiality and anonymity

All concerns are treated in confidence and, as far as possible, your identity will not be revealed if that is your wish. However, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed if, as a result of an investigation, you are required to provide a witness statement or attend a court hearing.

You can, if you prefer, raise your concern anonymously. The school would need to decide whether the levity and credibility of the concern warrants investigation if the source of the concern, and the key evidence, is not readily available.

The school will fully support you and do all it can to protect you from any harassment or adverse repercussions that may arise from whistleblowing.

Allegations that prove to be deliberately fabricated and malicious will be dealt with through staff disciplinary procedures. However, no action will be taken against any member of staff who raises a genuine concern that proves to be unfounded.

Reporting procedure

- It may help if you write down, for your own benefit, what you have observed or heard that is causing alarm. One useful way to decide whether your concern should be reported, is to consider whether you would want the conduct of this member of staff to continue unchecked if your own child or another young family member was involved.
- You may raise your concern verbally or in writing. You should report your concern directly to the headteacher.
- If the headteacher is the subject of your concern, speak to the chair of governors.
- A friend, colleague or union representative may accompany you to the meeting if you wish.
- Ensure the head or chair informs you of their proposed action and sets a date for a second meeting.
- Timescales will depend on the complexity of the initial inquiry but the case should not be allowed to stall and you should receive initial feedback within 10 working days. The timescale for subsequent feedback should then be agreed.
- Ask for clarification about confidentiality and ensure you have your wishes regarding the protection of your identity recorded.

Process and outcome

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- The headteacher or chair will make enquiries to establish the facts of the matter and whether poor practice or inappropriate conduct has occurred.
- Members of the school community, including governors, may be asked to provide information or advice.
- External advice, for example, from legal or human resources or children's services may be sought.
- A written record of the conduct, established facts and outcome of the inquiry will be kept.
- The whistle-blower will be kept informed of the progress of the inquiry.

The outcome of the inquiry will be one of the following:

- No poor practice or wrongdoing is established and the case is closed
- The concern has some substance and the subject of the concern will receive advice and support from the headteacher to improve practice
- Poor practice or wrongdoing is established and disciplinary proceedings are initiated
- The concern is more serious and an investigation is initiated. This investigation may involve the local authority's legal team, children's social care or the police.

If, at any stage in the process, there is reason to believe that a child is at risk of significant harm, children's social care will be immediately involved.

Further action

If you raise a concern and you are dissatisfied with the way it is managed, or the outcome, you may contact the governing body or local authority for advice.

Alternatively you can seek advice from your union or professional association, a solicitor, the police, children's social care or Public Concern at Work (PCaW), a registered charity that offers free and confidential legal advice on workplace malpractice.

Public Concern at Work

Suite 301, 16 Baldwins Gardens, London, EC1N 7RJ

020 7404 6609

whistle@pcaw.co.uk

www.pcaw.co.uk

Ynysfach Child Protection Policy

Appendix 3

Visiting staff child protection information leaflet

WELCOME to Ynysfach Primary School

School statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. While working in our school we expect you to take care of our pupils and follow our procedures.

Key facts about child abuse

Abuse and neglect can happen to any child, boy or girl, of any race, culture, ethnicity or sexuality. Disabled children and children with SEN are particularly vulnerable.

Many children are unable to disclose what is happening to them and rely on us to interpret their behaviour and spot signs of abuse.

A pupil may:

- have a bruise, burn or injury that seems suspicious
- show signs of pain or discomfort
- be unnaturally passive or withdrawn
- be unpredictable and challenging
- seem anxious, fearful or distressed
- provide an unlikely explanation for their injury or their behaviour.

If you are concerned for a child's health, welfare or safety in any way you must speak to the designated senior person (DSP) Mr Jason Dodd or a senior member of staff before you leave the school site.

Do not question the pupil or try to secure evidence. Your responsibility is to report your concern, not to investigate.

If a pupil tells you something that suggests they are at risk of harm, allow them to tell you as much as they wish and let them know that you must pass the information on to the DSP.

If you become concerned about a pupil's immediate safety, notify the nearest member of staff and tell them why you are concerned.

You should complete a welfare concern form (attached) and hand it to the DSP or a senior member of staff before you leave the school site. Ask a senior member of staff if you would

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like help to complete the form.

If you have any questions or wish to see our child protection policy please contact the DSP.

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Appendix 4

Confirmation of receipt of child protection policy

Name:

Date of joining school:

Post:

—

Date of induction:

Name and designation of staff member responsible for induction: _____

I confirm that I have received and read the school child protection policy.

I have been made aware of my duty to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

The procedure for reporting concerns about a pupil has been explained to me.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please sign and return this form to the designated senior person:

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Appendix 5 Ynysfach Primary School

Pupil and parent consent for the use of images

There is evidence to suggest that some people who are a risk to children may identify potential victims from images (photographs or video recordings) and accompanying personal information that is in the public domain, including school brochures and websites, and local and national media.

To protect our pupils, we do not publish their full name and photograph together, we ensure children are appropriately clothed for photographs and we do not allow commercial or media photographers unsupervised access to pupils.

In signing this form, pupils and parents give consent for the school or someone commissioned by the school to take and use photographs and video recordings for educational purposes, to record events and to publicise the work of the school on our website, in the school prospectus. Further consent will be requested for publicising photos outside of school.

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Images consent form

YNYSFACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPH AND PUBLISH

Name of person giving consent:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Name of person the subject of the photographs:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Relationship of person giving consent to photograph of subject

.....

Description of photographs – classroom activities and for individual certificates.

Date(s) when photographs taken – DATE

Method and purpose(s) of publication – for use in classroom/corridor displays and school produced certificates

1. I give consent to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for photographs to be taken of the subject named in this form and to the publication of those photographs for the purpose(s) described.
2. This consent taken effect from the date of this form and will continue in operation for the duration of the purpose described.
3. I understand that “photographs” will include all photographic material of any physical or electronic type which may be edited or treated in any way compatible with the purpose.
4. The copyright in the photographs shall be vested in the County Borough Council or the photographer as appropriate.

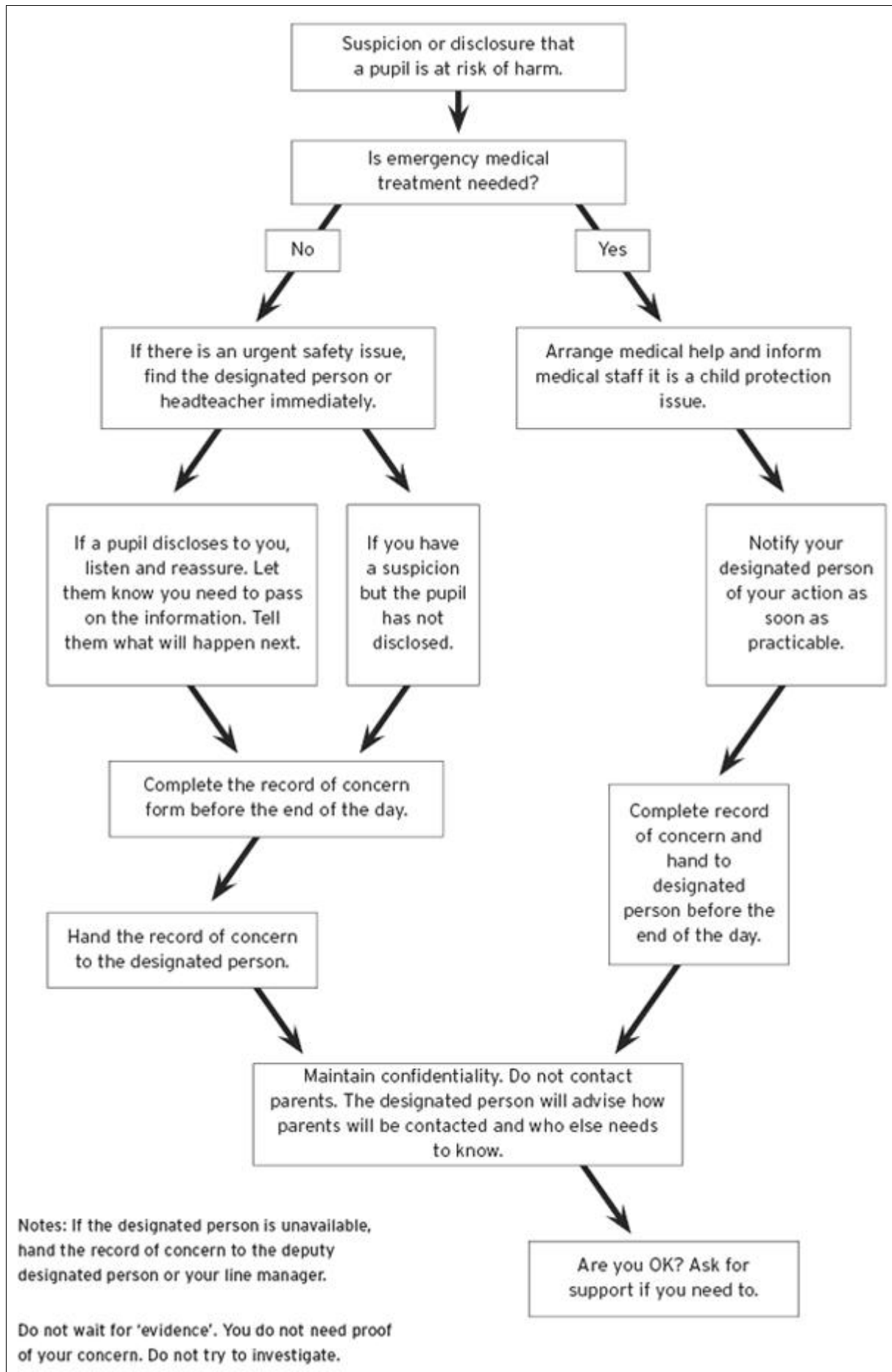
Signed

Dated:

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Appendix 6 Reporting a concern flowchart

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Appendix 7 School welfare concern form

Use this form to record any concern about a pupil's welfare and give it to the designated senior person for child protection:

If you suspect the pupil may be suffering abuse or neglect, or you have received a disclosure of abuse from a pupil, or you have heard about an allegation of abuse, you must complete the child protection record of concern form instead, and hand it to the designated person today.

Pupil's full name

Date of this record

Why are you concerned about this pupil?

What have you observed and when?

What have you heard and when?

What have you been told and when?

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Date and time you handed this form to the designated person

Are the parents/carers aware of your concern? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Class

Class teacher/form tutor

Your name and designation

Signature _____

Have you spoken to the pupil? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What did they say? Use the pupil's own words

Have you spoken to anyone else about your concern? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Who?

Is this the first time you have been concerned about this pupil? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Further details

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Appendix 8 Child protection record of concern: _____ School

Pupil's details

Full name

Address

Telephone

Date of birth

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Is the pupil looked-after by the local authority or are there any other legal family arrangements?
(for example, a residence order)

When was the pupil first admitted to this school?

Ethnicity and culture

Religion

Does the pupil have any disability or special educational need? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please specify

Preferred language of pupil

Is any type of language support required to converse with the pupil? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please specify

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Does the pupil know this form has been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

If yes, what did the pupil say?

Details of those with parental responsibility

Name(s)

Address

Telephone

Relationship to pupil

Ethnicity, culture and religion of those with parental responsibility if known

Preferred language of those with parental responsibility

Is any type of language support required?

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Do those with parental responsibility have any disability or special need?

How does this disability or special need affect the pupil?

Details of any siblings

Does the pupil regularly spend time with other carers, for example, after-school or holiday carers, or at a short break service?

Has a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) been completed for this pupil? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please give date and reason for the CAF

Why are you concerned about this pupil?

Please provide a description of any incidents/conversations and the dates they occurred. You must make clear what is fact and what is opinion or hearsay. You must not ask the pupil leading questions or try to investigate the concern yourself

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What have you observed and when?

(This relates to anything you have personally witnessed)

What have you been told and when?

(Write here anything you have been told by the pupil or any other person. Be clear about who has said what)

What have you heard and when?

(This may be third-party information that is relevant but as yet unsubstantiated)

If an allegation has been made, give any details you have about the alleged abuser

Date and time of this record

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Your details

Full name

Position

If you are not a member of the school staff please provide details of your school, agency or service together with a contact telephone number.

Do those with parental responsibility know this form has been completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, why not?

If yes, what did they say?

NOTE: Those with parental responsibility should not be contacted by anyone in the school if this could place the pupil at risk. Speak to the designated person first

Does the pupil have any visible injury, or have they told you they have been injured? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, has medical advice been sought?

Has any action already been taken in relation to this concern? (for example, pupil taken out of class, first aid)

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Name and position of the person this record was handed to:

Date and time the above person received this record

If this record has been handed to anyone other than the designated person please explain why

If you have used additional sheets to complete this record of concern please staple them to this form and write the number of additional sheets here _____

If the pupil has a visible injury, please indicate the location on the body map and staple the body map to this form.

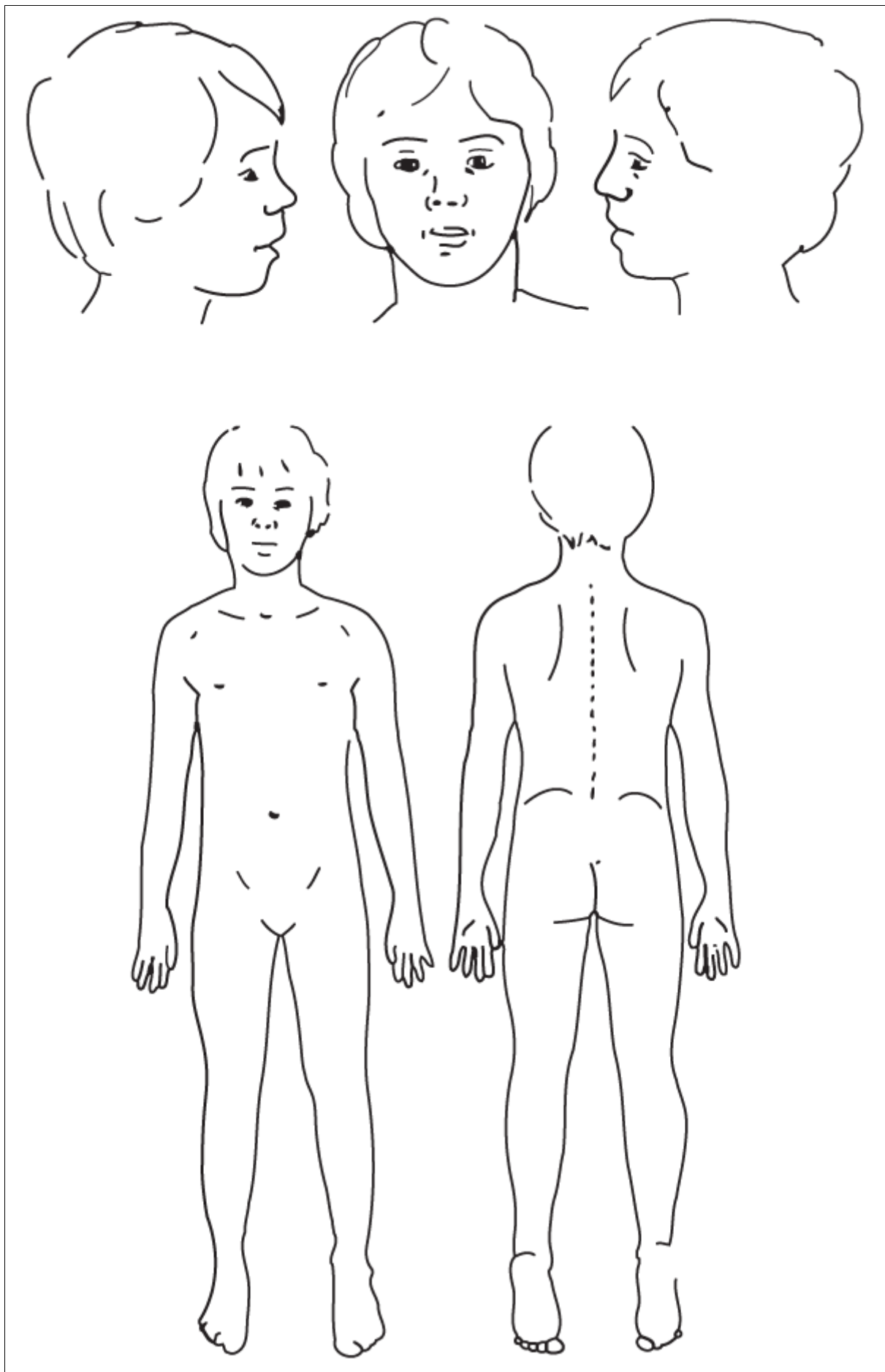
Hand this form to the designated person before you go home. If the designated person is unavailable, hand it to their deputy, the headteacher or your line manager.

If you do not have certain information, such as the child or family's ethnicity, do not delay handing in the form. Ask the designated person to complete the information.

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Body map

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Appendix 9 Essential contacts

Name and role:	Address, telephone and email address
School designated senior person	Karen Thomas 01639 710238 Thomask189@hwbcymru.net
Acting Headteacher	Karen Thomas 01639 710238 Thomask189@hwbcymru.net
Nominated governor	Mrs S D'Angeli and Paul Doyle
Deputy designated senior person	Mrs E Groth 01639 710238
Local authority allegation manager	Mr John Burge 01639 763598
Local authority safeguarding manager	<i>Anneliese</i> Anneliese Donovan Tel/ Ffôn: 01639 763363 Mobile/ Ffôn symudol: 07855079790
Local authority legal services	
Local authority human resources	
Children's social care	Llangatwg Team ~ Duty Officer 01639 685860
Out of hours duty team	Llangatwg Team ~ Duty Officer 01639 685860
Health authority	
CAMHS	
Police child abuse investigation unit	101
NSPCC helpline	Call: 0808 800 5000 Text message: 88858 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk