

The Role of school in protecting children

This leaflet aims to help parents understand the process of protecting children and procedures which we, as a school, have to follow.

At Campton Academy we see children's welfare as of paramount importance. We are committed to working with parents to ensure that our pupils have a happy, safe and good learning environment both at school and at home.

Part of our role involves contacting parents / carers to discuss attendance, unexplained absence, behaviour or concerns that have arisen following an observation or conversation with a child. Although these conversations may be uncomfortable we have them to ensure we are doing all we can to protect the children in our care from harm. Learning from serious case reviews (held following the death or serious injury of a child) regularly highlight the importance of people following up on all concerns no matter how small they appear.

As a school we are committed to and have a legal duty to safeguard your child's welfare. We follow the model policies and protocols outlined by BEST and Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board in order to ensure the welfare of our children. All members of staff in school are trained in Safeguarding and are committed to ensuring the safety of all our pupils.

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools, Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Police. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced or been exposed to any domestic abuse. Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is

trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been experienced a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

People to contact

Mrs Louise Day

Head of School, Designated Safeguarding Lead,

Mrs Carolyn Allen & Mrs Bethan Ruffell

Deputy Safeguarding Leads

Mr Alan Stuppel

Governor Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Louise Day

SENDCo

Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board

www.bedfordshirelscb.org.uk

Tel: 0300 300 6676

Further Information

- School policies, including Safeguarding Policy, can be found on our website or as a request from the School Office.
- NSPCC (www.nspcc.org.uk)
- Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board: www.bedfordshirelscb.org.uk
Tel: 0300 300 6676

Campton Academy

Rectory Road

Campton, Bedfordshire

SG17 5PF

Telephone: 01462 813359

Email: CMA-Info@bestacademies.org.uk

Web: <https://www.camptonacademy.org.uk>

Child Protection and Safeguarding at Campton Academy



Guidance for Parents and Carers

Campton Academy is an inclusive school which has a positive impact on children's lifelong learning and achievement

through high expectation in a creative and motivating environment.

Child Protection and Safeguarding in Campton Academy

Guidance for Parents and Carers

If the school is worried about a pupil's Welfare and that a child is at risk of harm, we **must legally** look into the matter and follow

- The law
- Guidance from the Department for Education
- The local multi-agency child protection procedures

What sort of harm?

Harm in these circumstances means child abuse or child maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by harming them or not acting to prevent harm. Harm is defined by the NSPCC as:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Enquiries also have to be made if a child is living with someone who has previously been involved in the abuse of another child.

What will school do?

If a member of staff is concerned that a child is at risk of suffering harm, they will report it to the designated safeguarding lead (as listed on this leaflet).

The member of staff will investigate the matter and decide whether it is necessary to contact the Access and Referral hub. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) does have concerns about the child's welfare, they must, by law, refer this on to the Access and Referral Hub.

When the child is referred, school must share all relevant information about the pupil. GDPR allows schools to share personal information with other agencies where there are child protection concerns.

School may let the child's parent(s) know when the child is referred, but will not contact parents if they think this could put the child at risk. School will always seek advice first.

What happens next?

A social worker, sometimes together with a police officer, will talk to the family. The social worker may talk to all children who are old enough to find out how they feel and what worries them.

If there are a lot of concerns about a child, a meeting called a child protection conference will be arranged. People who know the child and their family e.g. teacher, doctor, together with parents, partners and in some cases older children.

The conference will talk about what has happened and what can be done to help. If necessary, a child protection plan will be agreed of all the things people should do to help the child and the family.

Sometimes it may be necessary for a doctor to see a child. This will normally be a doctor who has a lot of experience working with children. If there are other children in the family, they may also be seen to make sure that they are ok. Parents will be asked permission before the child is seen.

Social services will contact the parent/carer to let them know what is happening as soon as possible.

Will my child be taken away from me?

This is often a very real concern for families. In lots of cases, it is assessed that it is in the best interests of the child to remain at home with their families. This is often where problems are sorted out most effectively.

However, the law says that children's social care must make sure that children are safe. If it is not safe for a child to continue to live at home the social worker will see if the child can stay with another member of the family. If that is not possible the social worker will arrange for the child to stay with a foster carer or in a child's residential home until it is safe for the child to go back home.

What happens after the investigation? One of several things may happen:

- No further action is taken
- Advice and support is offered (this may be provided by other professionals or agencies)
- A meeting is arranged to decide what will happen next