



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

To enable participants to understand their role and responsibility in protecting and promoting the welfare of children.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Head Teacher should:

- Explain the definitions of child abuse and neglect
- Recognise the indicators of abuse and neglect
- Illustrate how a child's race, gender, culture and ability informs an assessment of their need
- Define their responsibilities with regard to concerns about child abuse or children in need and be able to identify what actions they need to take
- Apply their knowledge to promote the welfare of children by understanding the links between the child protection procedures and the Assessment Framework

THE CONCEPT OF SIGNIFICANT HARM

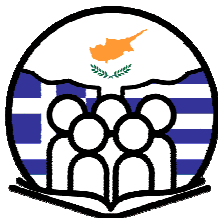
Some children are in need because they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

The Children Act 1989, introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children, and gives local authorities a duty to make enquiries to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child who is suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm.

Working Together 2006

There are no absolute criteria to rely on when deciding what constitutes significant harm. Deciding whether a child has been significantly harmed is a judgement based on consideration of the:

- Nature of the abuse
- The effects of the abuse on the individual child.
- The degree and extent of physical harm. The sustained abuse or neglect of children physically, emotionally or sexually can have major long-term effects on all aspects of a child's health and development and well-being.
- The duration and frequency of abuse and neglect. Sustained abuse is likely to have a deep impact on the child's self image and self esteem and on his/her future life.
- The extent of premeditation



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- The degree of threat and coercion, sadism and bizarre unusual elements particular in sexual abuse.

WHAT IS ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. 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 or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

It 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.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

It may involve conveying to children 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. 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.

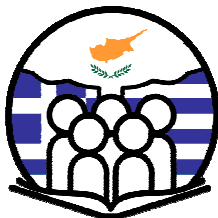
SEXUAL ABUSE

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 (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts.

They may include non-contact activities, such as looking at, or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

NEGLECT



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

It 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 use.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

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.

Normally professionals or any other worker or volunteer, should seek to discuss any concerns they have with the family in question, and where possible, seek their agreement to making a referral to social care.

The Head Teacher should inform:

- A parent with parental responsibility
- The child (if they have the ability to understand their choices and consequences).

Information can be discussed without consent, if this is necessary to:

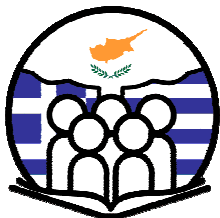
- Safeguard a child or children
- Prevent harm to staff

Reasons for decision not to inform parents prior to contacting social care/other agency should be justifiable and recorded in each case.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF A CHILD

1. Seek an explanation for your concerns, as appropriate, usually from a parent, carer or child.
2. Record events, accurately, date and sign, check background information, within your organisation.
3. Inform your line manager or supervisor, who will evaluate etc.
4. If you remain suspicious, you have a personal responsibility to inform social care.
5. Ensure that any allegation or suspicion of abuse, with details of names and addresses are passed on immediately.
6. Provide, within 24 hours a written record to social care, confirming your allegations/concerns. Use a body map if necessary.
7. Provide current and background information to social care when requested.

KEY LEARNING POINTS



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΡΟΙΚΙΑΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ NOTTINGHAM
«ΠΑΝΑΓΙΑ ΕΛΕΟΥΣΑ»
GREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF NOTTINGHAM
"THE VIRGIN MARY ELEOUSA"
184 Derby Road, Nottingham, NG7 1NF
email: info@GreekSchoolNottingham.co.uk

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- We all have a duty to protect children.
- You are not on your own.
- Support is available.
- Think adults-think potential risks.
- Do not delay. Act the same day!

Please Remember.....

Child protection is everyone's business.....
NEVER DO NOTHING!!!

