

Keeping Young People Safe

This Leaflet will tell you:

- ✓ What the difference between safeguarding and child protection is.
- ✓ The four ways in which harm and/or abuse are defined.
- ✓ What this school does to protect and keep your son/daughter safe from harm and/or abuse.
- ✓ What you should do as a parent to protect your son/daughter so that they get the best out of their school experience.
- ✓ Who you can contact in this school to offer information if you are concerned about your own or another young person you know.

Useful Contacts

Talk to the Headteacher or Designated Lead for Child Protection in your son/daughter's school if you are worried about a safeguarding or child protection concern.

The designated person in the School is:

Miss J White, Deputy Head Teacher

The deputy person is:

Mr D McGuiness, Assistant Head Teacher

The Child Protection & Safeguarding Officer at the Department of Education & Children is Gráinne Burns. You can contact her on grainne.burns@sch.im

More information about Safeguarding Children can be obtained from the Isle of Man Safeguarding Children's Board website at:

<http://www.isleofmanscb.im>
or from your child's school website.

Keeping Young People Safe

Safeguarding & Child Protection
in your son/daughter's School

Information for Parents Secondary Schools



Department of Education and Children

Rheynn Ynsee as Paitchyn

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Keeping Young People Safe From Harm

Proactive safeguarding covers the policies and procedures put in place that tell everyone how they should behave to keep everyone safe. Child Protection is the **duty** we have to act if we are concerned a child is being harmed.

Everybody has a responsibility to keep children and young people under 18 years of age safe from harm and abuse. Harm and/or abuse is identified in four ways

Neglect means that a child or young person is not being properly taken care of by their parents or carers. This could be about poor hygiene, poor diet, being left alone at home, not being taken to appointments or not being sent to school.

Physical Abuse is where someone deliberately hurts, hits or injures a young person.

Emotional Abuse is where someone shouts at, uses threats or makes fun of a young person to make them feel frightened, worthless or unloved. A young person seeing violence between parents or other people in their home can also be very harmful.

Sexual Abuse is where someone influences, involves or forces a child to look at or take part in sexual activities. This could include encouraging unwanted touching, involving a child in watching pornography or forcing a child or young person under the age of consent to have sex.

Young people may experience any of the above from adults and sometimes their peers. Abuse is increasingly being conducted online.

Schools

A young person should be able to go to school and feel safe from harm or abuse. School will help students learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons in school can cover road safety, bullying, relationships, age appropriate sex education, drug and alcohol awareness, healthy eating, e-safety and any other area that raises concern about a young person's safety.

A young person will be told how and where they can seek information, advice and guidance if they are worried or concerned about anything raised in these lessons which may include what is happening to them at home or in the community.

School understands that adolescence is a time when young people will become more independent, experiment with that freedom and possibly take risks.

Everyone employed in a school will be vetted, and staff and volunteers will be trained in how to identify abuse, and what must be done if they or someone else is worried about a student. The teachers who have responsibility for dealing with child protection in a school are known as Designated Safeguarding Leads.

All schools have policies and procedures outlining how everyone - adults and young people, should behave and what the consequences may be of not adhering to the policy. This includes a child protection policy. It explains the actions that must be taken if either of you are worried or concerned about a student. This will include how concerns are recorded and how they might be reported to social services or the police.

School staff will listen to, and work closely with parents to make sure the student feels safe and protected in school

Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your son/daughter safe. Young People are only in school around 20% of their life, so schools cannot know everything about your son/daughter's life, but will strive to support them in any way they can. As a parent you should:

- ✓ Talk to the school if you need help or support.
- ✓ Feel confident about raising any concerns you have in relation to your son/daughter.
- ✓ Read the School's E-safety, Anti Bullying, Behaviour and Child Protection Policies.
- ✓ Inform the school if your son/daughter has any medical conditions or educational needs. Please be honest as we can put strategies in place to keep your child safe if we know. We recognise these needs may change throughout the school year.
- ✓ Make the school aware of any Court Orders relating to your protection or your son/daughter's protection. This ensures school is vigilant to ensure the safety of your son/daughter.
- ✓ Inform the school if there is any change in circumstances, for example; change of address, change of name, change of parental responsibility.

Parents should contact the school if their son/daughter is absent. This assures the school that you know about the absence. You have a statutory duty to ensure your child attends school and school has a legal responsibility to record attendance.