

What will happen next?

After an assessment has been completed, depending on the level of support which is needed, either a child protection conference, a child in need meeting will be held or Early Help will be offered. You will be invited to this. Concerns will be discussed and a plan of support will be agreed and put in place. Regular review meetings will be held to find out if things are improving.

If a referral has been made and abuse isn't evident but there are concerns that extra support might be needed, social workers are able to sign post children and their families to other agencies nearby who will be able to offer you support.

The Safeguarding Officer in school will be contacted by the social worker and she will share any worries or concerns with them. The Safeguarding Officer will also pass on any positive comments such as attendance, behaviour, presentation and parental engagement with school.

It is very unusual for children to be taken away from their parents or carers.

The Children's Act 1989 states that everything possible must be done to help parents look after their children at home and will only remove a child if there is absolutely no other way of keeping them safe.

Parents and school working in partnerships.

We believe that our children learn best when school staff and parents work in partnership. The value of positive and active involvement by parents and carers cannot be overstated.

Your children will get more from their education if we all work together as a team. This means having good communication between school and home.

Please let us know about anything that might be affecting your child. We might be able to offer support or signpost you to other agencies. This may include a medical condition, accident or bereavement. Please let us know if your child will not be coming into school on the first day that they are absent by telephoning the school office on 0709 863622. We will contact you if your child is absent and you haven't let us know why. We will also do a home visit if we are not able to contact you or your family are part of a Child Protection Plan. We will also inform your social worker, who may do the health a wellbeing home visit and report back to school.

What you can expect from us...

- We will take good care of your child and provide a safe environment for them to learn in.
- We will talk to you if we see or hear anything that we are worried about.
- We will comply with safeguarding legislation and guidance.
- We will adhere to confidentiality guidelines.
- We will keep up to date, accurate records.

We will respond promptly and appropriately to any problem that you tell us about and offer you any support and assistance needed.

Why are schools involved in safeguarding?

The Children Act 1989 requires that everyone who works with children must report any child who is thought to be at risk of serious harm.

KCSIE - Keeping Children Safe In Education 2022 states 'Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.'



What does Safeguarding mean?

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. Schools and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. We work with social care, the police, health and other services to promote the welfare of children and to protect them from abuse.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is when a parent or caregiver, whether through action or failing to act, causes injury, death, emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a **child**. There are many forms of child maltreatment, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, and emotional abuse.

- Physical neglect
- Mental Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Online Abuse
- Educational neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Medical neglect
- Bullying and Cyber Bullying
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Criminal Exploitations and Gangs
- Domestic Abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Grooming
- Non-Resent Abuse

Some common signs that there may be something concerning happening in a child's life include:

- unexplained changes in behaviour or personality
- becoming withdrawn
- seeming anxious
- becoming uncharacteristically aggressive
- Struggling to control their emotions
- lacks social skills and has few friends, if any
- poor bond or relationship with a parent
- knowledge of adult issues inappropriate for their age
- running away or going missing
- always choosing to wear clothes which cover their body
- unexplained absence from school or persistent absence
- Becoming unkempt
- Have money and unexplained valuable items
- Hiding messages and refusing to say where they are going- being secretive
- Act in a way that is inappropriate for their age
- Bruises, broken bones, swelling, scolds or bite marks

These signs don't necessarily mean that a child is being abused, there could be other things happening in their life which are affecting their behaviour.

Why would school make a referral to Social Care Direct?

All schools have a duty to refer cases of suspected child abuse or neglect to Social Care. It is not the job of school to investigate if abuse is happening or not, but to pass on information to the relevant services to investigate.

If someone in our school sees an unusual or unexplained injury or mark, or if your child has said something worrying to us, we are required to make a referral. If we think that your child has been abused or is at risk of serious harm, we don't have to seek your agreement for the referral to be made. However, we believe that it is better for your child if we can work together so we will, whenever possible, let you know that a referral has been made and discuss the reasons why with you.

You may feel angry, upset or worried because we have made a referral. Please try to understand that every member of staff has a responsibility to act in the best interests of all of our children all of the time and are not allowed to take any risks if a child's safety is of concern.

When a referral is made, a social worker manager will read all the information and decide what needs to happen next. They will talk to school and ask for information from other agencies such as school health visitors or school nurses, who have access to information from your G.P. They will also contact you this is usually via the phone depending on the reason for the referral.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact schools Families and Safeguarding Officer Miss Davies on 01709863622.



Denaby Main Primary Academy Safeguarding Officer

Information for parents and carers.

Here at Denaby Main Primary Academy, there is nothing more important to us than the Physical, Emotional and Mental wellbeing of our pupils.

For this reason, we regard the need for Safeguarding children from all harm as vitally important.

This leaflet has been produced to provide parents and caregivers information on why schools refer to Social Care Direct and what may happen following a referral.