

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Laurence Jackson School</b> <b>CHILD PROTECTION POLICY</b> <b>POLICY DOCUMENT</b></p>
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The Nominated Persons for Child Protection are:  
Mary King and Judith Gordon

**Duties of the Nominated Persons**

- To listen to/advise staff who have been approached by a student.
- Referral of all suspected abuse to Children's Services.
- Confidentiality of all records relating to a Child Protection issue.
- Ensuring staff involved make a detailed record of all information given to them.

The Nominated Governor is:  
Mr G Smith – Chair of Governors

Role of Governors:

Ultimate responsibility for safeguarding falls under the governing body statutory duties/responsibilities Section 175 of the Education Act 2002.

Laurence Jackson School Governing body oversees Safeguarding through the Student Welfare Governors committee. The committee are responsible for reviewing policies and procedures annually and addressing deficiencies, complaints and concerns.

**The School's Philosophy is:**

- Laurence Jackson School believes that physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being of every student is paramount.
- We wish to establish and maintain an environment where students feel safe, secure and able to talk and are listened to.
- All school staff have a duty of care to ensure that students prosper and that their individual needs are met.
- Laurence Jackson School follows the South Tees Area Child Protection procedures set out by the South Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) which are endorsed by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.
- Laurence Jackson School will also have regard to relevant guidance\* issued by the DfES.

**Aims and Objectives are:**

- All staff and Governors to be aware of their statutory duties and responsibilities for child protection in relation to Section 175, of the Education Act 2002.
- Ensure that the school has Nominated Persons for Child Protection who will receive appropriate training and support for this role.
- Ensure the governing body is aware of its role within child protection.
- Ensure all staff, volunteers and the governing body know and understand the role of the Nominated Persons for Child Protection.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert/identifying signs of possible abuse and the need to refer any concerns to the Nominated Persons for Child Protection.
- School to recognise a child protection concern and/or a child in need indicator and refer appropriately.

- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and work together as required.
- Develop secure and appropriate child protection recording systems.
- Ensure safe staff and volunteer recruitment practices are followed.
- Ensure all staff receive training appropriate to their level of contact with children. Minimum standard being issue of guidance booklet and preferably e learning qualification.
- Training to be offered on a two year rota with the induction programme for new staff incorporating training and access to e learning.

\*Child Protection Guidance

1. Laurence Jackson School's B4L policy
2. Laurence Jackson School's anti bullying policy
3. The Children's Act 1989
4. Education Act 2002
5. Working to Safeguard Children 2006
6. Safeguarding Children in Education 2004
7. Safeguarding Children: Safe Recruitment and Selection in Education settings

**Information Given to All staff**

We all have responsibility for the well being of children and everyone should be alert to situations in which children may be harmed. SLT, DofL and Subject Leaders have responsibility for ensuring curriculum content is sensitive to Child protection issues. Assemblies used to deliver e Safety message to students.

**Signs and Symptoms**

Are you worried about a child who:-

- Shows an injury or repeated injuries with no reasonable cause.
- Is left to care for themselves for periods of time.
- Has what appears to be an unhealthy relationship with an adult.
- Seems to be unhappy, withdrawn or disinterested in their surroundings.
- Appears frightened of an adult.

This could mean a child might be suffering from some kind of abuse, i.e. physical, sexual, emotional or neglect.

**Types of Abuse**

• **Neglect**

Child neglect is a serious condition, which can result in delayed physical and emotional development.

Neglect may be the consequence of both a lack of concern and/or poverty. Children who receive an inadequate diet or who are left unsupervised in potentially dangerous situations are amongst the more obvious examples.

• **Physical Abuse**

*Bruises*

Falls or accidents often produce only a single bruise - usually on a bony prominence. Children are commonly struck on the head, ears, cheeks, mouth, chest, upper arms, stomach, thighs and buttocks. Any bruising to the lips/gums or bruising in the form of finger marks/grasp marks/outline marks should arouse concern.

*Black Eyes*

Two black eyes are rarely accidental, even a single black eye is a cause for concern. Accidental black eyes are often accompanied by bruises to other parts of the face.

#### *Burns and Scalds*

Around 10% of abused children suffer burns. However, scalds and burns are very common accidents in children making it very difficult to distinguish between accidental and inflicted burns.

Generally, non-accidental burns are characterised by their location; for example, scalds to the buttocks and groin are rarely accidental - a child doesn't sit in scalding water without also scalding his/her feet. Multiple cigarette burns should also be regarded as non-accidental.

- **Sexual Abuse**

A child whose behaviour/emotional response suddenly changes inexplicably could be a victim of sexual abuse.

Intimate physical signs are also an indicator - bruising, bites or scratches on the inner thighs, breasts or genitals are all causes for concern. Only PE/Drama staff may see such signs.

- **Emotional Abuse**

All abuse involves some emotional ill treatment. Emotional abuse is an active form of harm involving the deliberate frightening, bullying or scape-goating of a child.

The child who is emotionally abused often lacks confidence and self esteem.

#### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

1. If a child approaches you with information which in your view, if not addressed, may pose a risk to the health or safety of that child then – never act alone, discuss your concern with a Nominated Person, remember it is essential to keep in mind the importance of seeking advice whenever you have a child protection concern. (If a Nominated Person is not available to discuss your concerns with, the Headteacher or a senior member of staff should be informed)
2. If you have concerns about any member of staff and their interaction with students, this should be directed to the Head teacher who will follow the LSCB whistle blowing procedure.
3. If the allegation is against the Head teacher or a member of SLT the nominated member of Governing body would involve the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer).
4. If the allegation is against someone outside the school, the LADO would be contacted.

#### DO

- Listen to a child who is alleging abuse. Ask open questions, eg “Is there anything else you would like to tell me?”
- Be honest about your responsibility and who you must discuss the matter with.
- Tell them that they are not alone and you will help them. Inform the Nominated Person and make a written record of information the child gives you.

## DO NOT

- Ask leading questions, eg “Did your Mum or Dad hit you?”
- Promise the child that the information they give will remain a secret.
- Dismiss the child’s story as fantasy – a child’s statement about an allegation of abuse, whether in confirmation or denial, should always be taken seriously.
- Assume that another Agency/person is already aware and taking appropriate action.

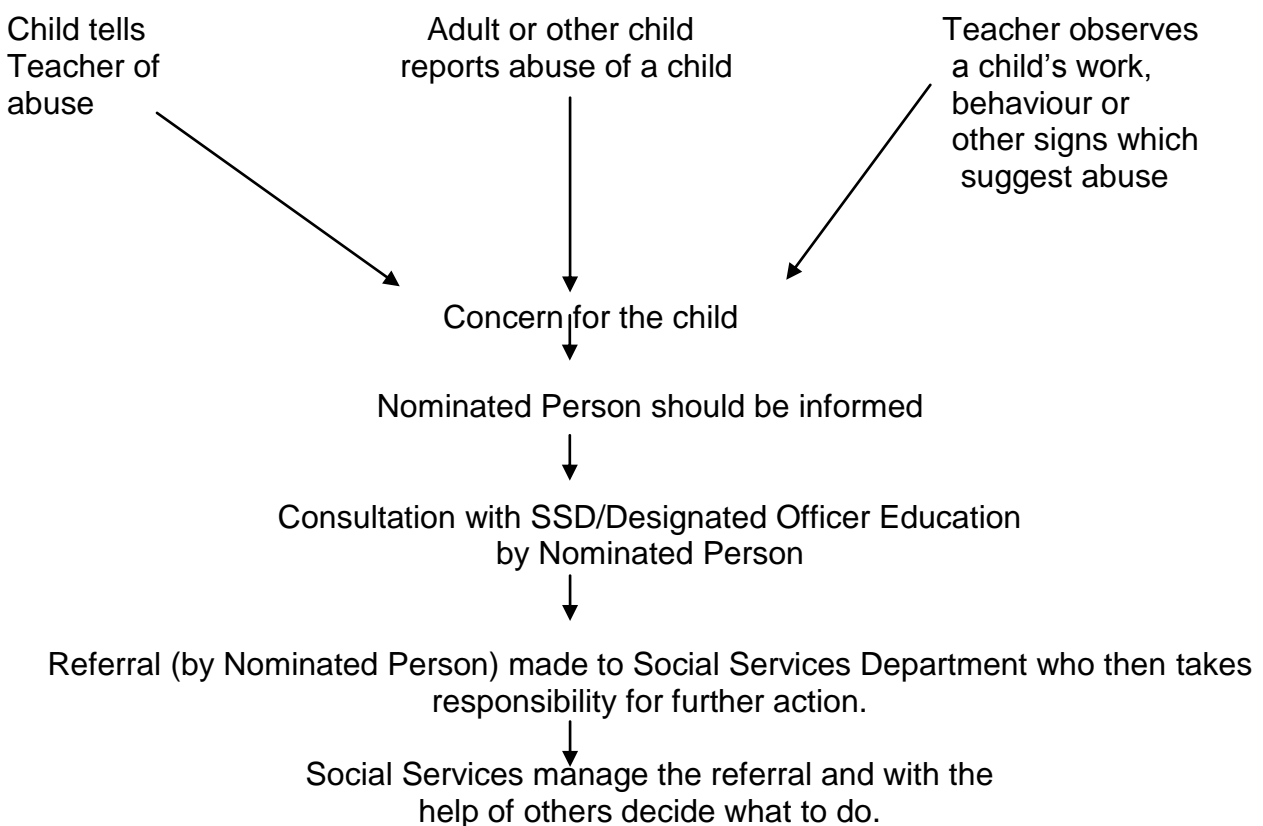
## What Happens Next?

Member of staff informs a Nominated person.

Nominated Person consults with outside agencies.

Referral is made and member of staff is asked to write a full account (verbatim).

## PROCEDURE FOR A CHILD PROTECTION ISSUE



Detailed information regarding Child Protection can be found in the Child Protection Folder in SR2 and the CP policy is available electronically to all stakeholders and the school website under policies.

This policy will be reviewed annually in light of LSCB guidelines and changes. Any changes will be reflected in the policy which will then go to the Student Welfare Governors for ratification.

Adopted by Governors:

Spring 2011

To be Reviewed:

Spring 2014