



# Safeguarding Policy

This policy was adopted by: Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets	Date: 9/5/17
Reviewed by: Elizabeth Williams 1/9/2025	Signed:

Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets aims to provide an environment in which children and young people will feel safe, secure and cared for. The purpose of this policy is to provide the staff and parents of Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets with guidelines and support on the subject of child abuse and how they can act to assist in the protection of children and young people in the setting.

The two main principals of Safeguarding and protecting children is everybody's responsibility and a child centred approach

The policy aims to ensure that all members of staff are informed about child abuse, the forms that it can take, signs and symptoms of possible abuse and the steps that they should take in recognising and preventing child abuse.

This policy is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which states in Article 19: Protection from Abuse and Neglect

- States parties should take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse whilst in the care of parents, legal guardian or any other person who has the care of the child.
- Such protective measures should, as appropriate include effective procedures for the establishment of social programme to provide the necessary support for the child and those who have the care of the child, as well as other forms for prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of incidences of child maltreatment described heretofore, and as appropriate for judicial involvement.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of Law and guidance that seeks to protect children : -

- Children's Act 1989
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Social Services Well Being Act 2014
- Sexual Offences Act
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Welsh Government Circular 05/2008 Safeguarding children in education

We have copies of, and are familiar with, the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Every six months we check that we have the latest version of the relevant procedures (or any documents that may replace them in the future). The guiding principles of the Social Services and Well – being Act 2014 include:

- giving individuals a stronger voice and more control over the care and support they receive.
- Encouraging a renewed focus on prevention and early intervention.

### **Definitions**

For child protection purposes this policy refers to any child aged 0 – 16 years (18 years for Children with Additional Support Needs)

A **parent** is defined as any person who has parental responsibilities over a child. For example: a mother or father. We may also include in this; foster and adoptive parents and carers, including those who may have substantial care of a child.

A **childcarer**: These people may not have specific parental responsibilities but nonetheless have a duty of care for the child. This is **inclusive** of Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets staff.

## **What is Child Abuse?**

Child Abuse is the term used to describe ways in which children are intentionally or inadvertently harmed or placed at risk of harm, usually by adults, and often by people that they trust.

### Categories of Abuse

**Physical Injury:** This is defined as any injury inflicted or knowingly not prevented by any person having custody or care of a child. Physical abuse is often defined by injuries that cannot be explained by the normal play activities of a child, and is defined as hitting or hurting a child on purpose.

**Neglect:** This is defined as the wilful failure to meet the basic needs of a child, for example, not clothing, feeding or caring for a child adequately and leaving them without adequate supervision.

**Emotional/psychological Abuse:** This is defined as any abuse or torment which would have an effect on the mental health and wellbeing of a child. Most commonly emotional abuse is categorised as shouting at a child, making a child feel worthless, exposing a child to inappropriate and never punishment and inconsistency of behaviour towards a child.

**Sexual Abuse:** This is defined as the exploitation of children in order to meet the demands of adults or other children. Sexual abuse may include: involvement of children in masturbation, involvement of children in pornographic activity, including taking pornographic photographs and involving children in watching or viewing pornographic materials, involvement of children in sexual activity, including; rape, sodomy, oral sex and sexual intercourse with a child, even with their consent.

**Financial Abuse:** this category will be less prevalent for a child but indicators could be not meeting their needs for care and support which are provided through direct payments or complaints that personal property is missing.

## **Recognition of Child Abuse**

It is not in the remit of members of staff at Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets to identify the specific category of abuse that a child may be experiencing but rather to highlight any causes for concern to the appropriate person and organisations.

The following list although not exhaustive may be indicative of some of the signs and symptoms of child abuse, it should be noted that some children may display some of these signs in times of stress; it does not necessarily mean that they are being abused.

### **Indicators of Abuse**

- Injuries to the child that are not consistent with the normal play activities of a child, either in position or type.
- Inconsistent or unreasonable explanation of an injury by a child, parent or carer
- Inconsistent or inappropriate behaviour such as sexually explicit remarks or actions, mood swings, uncharacteristically quiet/aggressive, severe tantrums.
- Becoming isolated socially
- Overeating, loss of appetite, weight loss, weight gain.
- Inappropriately dressed or ill-kept and/or dirty
- Self inflicting injury

- Open distrust of, or discomfort with, parent or carer
- Delayed social development, poor language and speech
- Excessively nervous behaviour, such as rocking or hair twisting
- Low self esteem

### **General indicators of abuse, though often typical of sexual abuse**

- Recurring Abdominal Pain
- Reluctance to go home
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Recurring headaches

NB. Please refer to the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 for a full list of signs and symptoms of abuse.

### **Recording and Reporting of an Incident – Suspicions of Abuse**

All staff should be aware that any incidents must be recorded. It is also very important for staff to communicate immediately about matters of this kind.

If a member of staff suspects that a child is under threat there are a number of steps that must be taken.

1. Inform your line manager or (if appropriate) the member of staff in your organisation with designated responsibility for child protection as soon as possible. In the event that the member of staff in your organisation with designated responsibility for Child Protection is not available staff should refer to the Responsible Individual or to the local authority child protection guidelines for details of their local Social Services or the out of hours telephone number. Powys Front Door Services 01597827666
2. Report your concerns to your line manager or (if appropriate) the member of staff in your organisation with designated responsibility for child protection as soon as possible.
3. Record your suspicions and give them to your line manager or (if appropriate) the member of staff in your organisation with designated responsibility for child protection as soon as possible, to ensure that all details are recorded accurately.

Records of suspicions must include the following information:

- The nature of the suspicion
- Details of any injury
- Times, dates and any other relevant information
- Dates, times and names of other adults involved with the child who may substantiate the suspicion
- The designated member of staff for Child Protection will then determine the situation and refer the case to Social Services or the police

- All Child Protection records should be kept confidentially in a locked cupboard/filing cabinet.

*NB. Child Protection records are to be kept for a 6 years from when the child no longer accesses the service.*

### **Disclosure of Abuse**

If a child discloses to you that they have been abused, the member of staff should:

Inform the child that in order to help them you have to tell your line manager or designated staff member for Child Protection, the member of staff should tell the child who this person is and reassure the child that they can trust them and that they have done the right thing in telling you what has been going on.

Listen to the child and note down what they say to you **in their own words**. It is important at this stage that you do not interrupt the child and you do not ask questions.

Report the disclosure to the manager or designated staff member for child protection in the setting

They will then contact the relevant agency or the police who will investigate the disclosure. If the Line Manager or member of staff dealing with the situation at the time thinks that the case is serious enough to involve Social Services immediately please contact the relevant Social Services office for the area, or contact Social Services out of hours service. If it is felt that the child is in immediate danger the Line Manager or designated member of staff should contact the police. It should be noted that if a member of staff is named in the disclosure the member of staff should be as discrete as possible and inform their Line manager or designated member of staff as soon as possible.

Should it be found that a child has suffered abuse; the setting will work with outside agencies to ensure that the child is supported in every way possible.

Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets recognises that it can be a traumatic experience for a member of staff to be witness to a child's disclosure of abuse; therefore all staff will be offered information on counselling services to help them through this time.

### **Actions to be taken in the event of a disclosure about professional abuse:**

If the behaviour of a colleague, adult (including volunteers and members of the public) towards children or young people causes concern:

Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets understands that it is important to differentiate between cases involving issues such as poor professional practice and cases that give rise to child protection concerns (including cases involving abuse of trust) We will deal with the former via disciplinary procedures or other avenues, however, child protection concerns will always be dealt with through local child protection procedures in line with the policy detailed above. In the event of a disclosure about professional abuse:

The procedure above (Action to be taken in the event of a disclosure about a child) is implemented in relation to the child.

The registered person/responsible individual considers the option of removal/suspension without prejudice from duty of the member of staff pending investigation.

The member of staff is informed, and written records of discussions are made in line with the staff disciplinary policy and procedure.

The registered person/responsible individual informs CIW of any allegations of serious harm to a child committed by any person looking after children in Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets within 14 days.

If an allegation is made against the Leader/Person in Charge the matter should be reported to the Responsible Person/Individual.

If an allegation is made against the Responsible Person/Individual the matter should be referred to the committee and Leader/Person in Charge.

Failure by a member of staff to report suspected abuse will result in disciplinary action being taken.

### **Responding to a Child who confides in you**

- Stay Calm
- Do not make promises you cannot keep
- Offer reassurance and support
- Immediately tell your line manager
- Record the facts and discussion in the child's own words and give to your leader or responsible person
- Do not take control of the situation yourself
- Maintain confidentiality
- Write a full report as soon as possible (within at least 24 hours)
- Talk to the right people
- Do not collude on evidence

### **Diversity**

In order to make sensitive and well informed professional judgements about a child's needs, and a parents' capacity to respond to their child's needs, it is important that professionals are sensitive to differing family patterns and lifestyles and to child rearing patterns that vary across different racial, ethnic and cultural groups. Professionals and practitioners should also be aware of the broader social factors that serve to discriminate against people from black or ethnic minority communities.

Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets should be aware of the Local Authorities systems and protocols in place for identifying children placed in their areas including asylum seeking and unaccompanied children and children placed under private fostering arrangements. These children can be particularly vulnerable, and protocols need to emphasise the importance of safeguarding and promoting their welfare.

Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets assessment process will always include consideration about how religious beliefs and cultural traditions in different racial, ethnic and cultural groups influence values, attitudes and behaviour and the way in which family and community life is structured and organised. Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets will guard against myths and stereotypes, whether positive or negative, and anxiety about being accused of oppressive and discriminatory practice will not prevent the necessary action being taken to safeguard a child.

When required, independent, appropriate interpreting and translation services and sign language interpreters will be used wherever professionals have contact with children, young people and their families. Family members; children, and, friends should not be used as sole interpreters.

### **End Note**

All parents should be aware that all members of staff attend regular child protection training and this reviewed regularly. Child Protection is discussed at each team meeting and is part of our induction process for any new staff. Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets is committed to keeping your child/ren safe from harm and are fully aware of all policies and procedures.

Ysgol Carreghofa Owlets has named Child Protection officers – details below.

The Setting has a duty to report any suspicion of abuse and neglect to any of the contacts below who have a duty to investigate such matters, should a parent/carer, staff member, child or Responsible Individual feel that a concern has not been dealt with appropriately, they can contact any of the contacts below for further advice.

Child Protection Officer : – Elizabeth Williams 01691830396

Local Authority officer : Michael Gedrim and 01597826431

Powys Front Door Services : 01597 827 666 The Gwalia, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6AA

Social Services: 01597 827666 (Powys People Direct) 01743250160 (Shropshire)

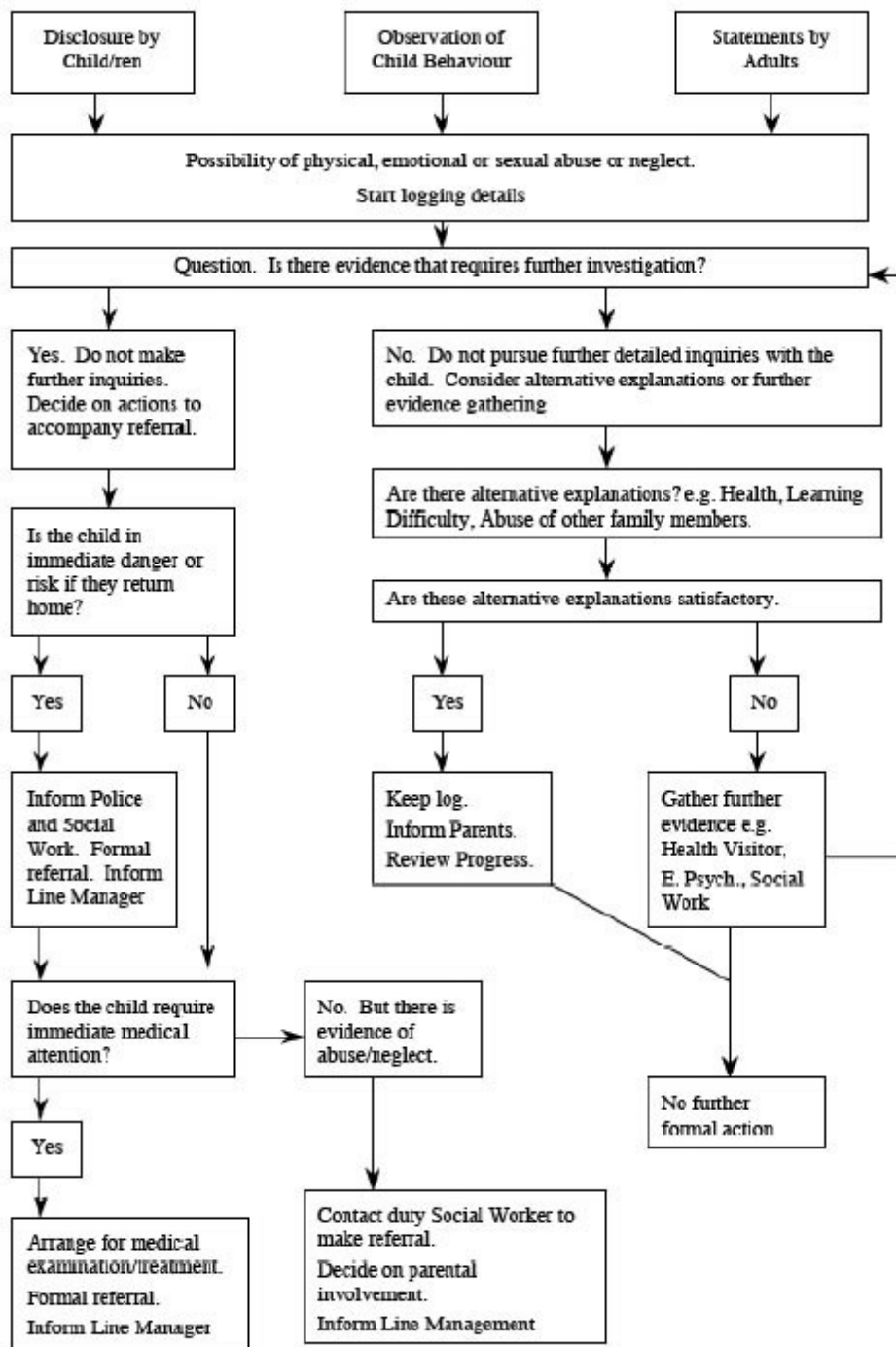
LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board): 08456027050 or Out of Hours 08450544847

CIW: 0300 7900126

Police: 101/999

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

Wales Safeguarding Procedures app



### **Child Protection Flowchart**

This chart is to be used as a guide to the organisational procedures for The Protection of Children. For further information please refer to the internal policy for Child Protection and the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.



**All Members of Staff Should:**

- Play your part in helping to develop an ethos where all people matter and are treated with equality, and respect and dignity.
- Always put the care, welfare and safety needs of a child first.
- Respect a child's right to be involved in making choices and decisions which directly affect them.
- Listen attentively to any ideas and views a child wants to share with you.
- Respect a child's culture (for example, their faith and beliefs)
- Respect a child's right to privacy and personal space.
- Respond sensitively to children who seem anxious about participating in certain activities
- Speak to a member of staff immediately if you suspect that a child is experiencing bullying or harassment.
- Be aware of the vulnerability of some groups of children to being isolated and hurt.

- Ensure that when you are working with children you are at least within sight or hearing of other adults.
- Listen carefully when a child 'tells you' (sometimes through drawings and behaviour as well as words) that they are being harmed and report what you have discovered immediately to your line manager.
- Report immediately any suspicion that a child may be at risk of harm or abuse.
- Never dismiss what a child tells you as lies or exaggeration
- Only restrain a child who is at imminent harm of inflicting harm to themselves or others.
- Never underestimate the contribution that you can make to the development of safe communities for children.
- Act in a professional manner at all times.

**Members of Staff Should Not:**

- Exaggerate or trivialise another workers concerns about a child or ignore an allegation or suspicion of abuse in the hope that it will either go away or that someone else will deal with it.
- Discuss personal issues about a child or their family with other people except where it concerns the wellbeing of the child.
- Be drawn into derogatory remarks or gestures in front of the children or young people.
- Allow a child or young person to be bullied or harmed by anyone else in the organisation
- Allow children to swear or use sexualised language unchallenged.

The policy will be monitored and evaluated as detailed throughout the policy. The policy will be reviewed on at least an annual basic.