

Keeping Children Safe

This Leaflet will tell you:

- ✓ The four ways in which harm and/or abuse is defined.
- ✓ What our school must do to protect and keep your child safe from harm and/or abuse.
- ✓ What you can do as a parent to protect your child so that they get the best out of their school
- ✓ Who you can contact for further information about child protection in schools and in the community

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- ✓ behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
- ✓ possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
- ✓ behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children

The LADO for Northumberland is Adam Hall

Adam.hall01@northumberland.gov.uk or
01670 623979

Useful Contacts

Always talk to the Headteacher or the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school if you are worried about a safeguarding or child protection concern.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead in Berwick Academy is: Mr M Wickens

Deputy Designated Lead: Mrs D Tait

More information about Child Protection in education can be obtained from the Department of Education's website

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education

Useful Contacts:

Berwick Children Social Care Locality Team
During office hours - 01289 334000
Out of Hours 0845 600 5252

National helplines:

NSPCC 24 Hour Child Protection Helpline - **0808 800 5000**

New Government website containing a wealth of information available

<http://parentinfo.org/>

Keeping Children Safe: Child Protection in Education Berwick Academy



Information for Parents

Child Protection

Keeping Children Safe from Harm

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

Neglect means that a child is not being properly taken care of by their parents. This could be about poor hygiene or 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 child.

Emotional Abuse is where someone shouts at, uses threats or makes fun of a child to make the child feel frightened, worthless or unloved. A child 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.



Berwick Academy

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe and protected from harm or abuse. Schoolwork will help a child learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons in school can cover drug and alcohol awareness, healthy eating, road safety, relationships, sex education and bullying and at Berwick Academy we deliver this through our IAG lessons, Assemblies, Tutor Activities and PSHE Workshop Days.

All pupils are made aware of what to do if they are worried or concerned about harm or abuse and there are displays around school signposting them to staff who can provide support

Everyone employed in a school has been vetted (by the Disclosure and Barring Service) and staff and volunteers will be trained in how to identify abuse including what must be done if they or someone else is worried about a child. The teachers who have responsibility for dealing with child protection in a school is known as **Designated Safeguarding Lead**.

The Schools safeguarding policy is available on the school website. It will explain the actions that you or the school must take if you are worried or concerned about a child. 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 their child feels safe and protected in the school environment.

Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your child safe. 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 child.
- ✓ Read your School's Pastoral Care, Anti Bullying, Positive Behaviour, PREVENT Parent leaflet, Internet and Child Protection Policies. (available on school website)
- ✓ Inform the school if your child has any medical conditions or additional educational needs.
- ✓ Make the school aware of any legal arrangements relating to your protection or your child's protection.
- ✓ Inform the school if there is any change in your child's circumstances for example; change of address, change of name, change of parental responsibility.

Parents should contact the school if their child is absent, then ring or send in a note on the child's return to school. This assures the school that you know about the absence.

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