

## MORE INFORMATION...

- Look at your school's child protection policy and safeguarding procedures
- Look at your school's staff Code of Conduct and policy for managing allegations against members of staff
- Look at the South West Child Protection Procedures at [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk) or visit the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board website at [www.plymouthscb.org.uk](http://www.plymouthscb.org.uk)
- Look at the Common Assessment Framework guidance at: <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/commonassessmentframework>
- Look at Section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 at <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002>
- Look at the Government guidance "What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused" (2006) at: [www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/dfes-04320-2006](http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/dfes-04320-2006)
- Children and young people can contact Childline for free 24-hour telephone support on 0800 1111 or at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### If you have a concern about a child, please tell somebody who can help

#### Plymouth Children's Social Care

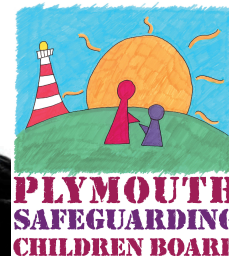
- Advice and Assessment Team 01752 308600 (Office hours) 01752 346984 (Out of hours)
- Safeguarding Unit 01752 307144
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 01752 307144

#### Plymouth Police

- Emergency 999
- Non-Emergency 101
- Child Abuse Investigation Unit 01752 284522

### PLYMOUTH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Midland House, Plymouth PL1 2EJ  
T 01752 307535  
[www.plymouthscb.org.uk](http://www.plymouthscb.org.uk)



## CHILD PROTECTION AND YOUR SCHOOL

Information for workers and young people

## **Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.**

## **Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment.**

All schools have a legal duty to work with other agencies, for example Social Care and the Police, to safeguard children's welfare.

This leaflet will explain to you what that means in practice. It also tells you where you can get more information or help.

Your school has a senior member of staff who is responsible for child protection matters affecting pupils at the school (the 'senior designated person for child protection').

It also has procedures which explain how your school deals with child protection concerns, plus other safeguarding policies including how to manage allegations against staff and also a staff code of conduct.

You can ask for copies of these documents from the school office.

## **SCHOOLS MUST FOLLOW**

- The law and guidance from the Department for Education
- The South West Child Protection Procedures ([www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk))
- Their own safeguarding policies

If the school is worried about whether a pupil is suffering harm, they must refer this on to a social worker.

The school will normally let the pupil's parent(s) or carer(s) know when they refer but they should not contact parents or carers if they think, or are not sure, that this could put a child or any other person at increased risk of harm. They will usually take advice from social workers about when to speak to parents.

When a school refers a child protection concern to a social worker, they must share all relevant information about the pupil.

The Data Protection Act allows schools to share personal information with other agencies when there are child protection concerns about a child or young person.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A SOCIAL WORKER IS INVOLVED...**

The social work manager, usually in consultation with other agencies, will decide what should happen next.

They may decide that no further action is needed by them but suggest that the school or other agencies do an assessment using the Common Assessment Framework or provide services to support the child.

They may decide that the referral needs looking into further. What action is taken will depend on the circumstances.

One of the following may be appropriate:

- An initial assessment
- Child protection enquiries. These include assessing the risks to the child, based upon research, information shared and talking to those concerned.

If there is an allegation about harm to a child by a member of school staff or volunteer at the school, a discussion will take place between the school (usually the Headteacher) and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to decide what should happen next. In some cases this might mean action by social workers and/or the Police. (See also leaflet 'Allegations of abuse made against a person who works with children', ref: PSCB/AMSTRAT/General/Jul14)

If you do not think the school has properly responded to an allegation about harm to a child by a member of staff you can complain to governors or refer to the Children's Social Care Advice and Assessment Team or Safeguarding Unit.