



PROLOGUE

The purpose of the child protection procedure is to ensure that there is a framework within which adequate protection and support can be provided to children who are at risk of being abused. All Wellacre Technology College staff must support these procedures and implement them to the best of their ability.

What is child abuse?

The definitions of child abuse are to be found in the Trafford procedural guide entitled 'Caring for Children' (A child is a person under 16 years of age.)

1. Physical Abuse
2. Neglect and Failure to Thrive
3. Emotional Abuse
4. Sexual Abuse

MAIN POINTS

Who is responsible?

Staff in schools are particularly well placed to note signs of possible child abuse. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching must be aware of the designated persons at Wellacre Technology College and refer all concerns to them.

Wellacre Technology College has designated persons who have been on official training courses. They will act as co-ordinators. They should not be seen as the only people who identify suspected abuse, but as the people responsible for ensuring that the school follows the Trafford guidelines. The designated persons are the Head of Upper School, the Head of Lower School and the School Nurse.

Procedure for abuse other than Sexual Abuse

When a member of staff is concerned about a possible case of child abuse, he/she should make a careful note of the child's condition including any visible injuries and observations of the child's emotional state and behaviour. In case of physical abuse, explanations given by the child as to how the injuries were sustained should be recorded, including any apparent discrepancies. Should the parent be present on the premises (at the beginning of the morning session for example) it would normally be appropriate to make enquiries as to the origin of the child's injuries. His/her explanation should also be accurately recorded using the green referral sheet.

Contact must be made with the designated member of staff and he/she must ensure that an enquiry is made of the child protection register.

If concerns persist following discussion with the designated member of staff, the latter person must initiate a telephone referral to The Community Advice Team of the Social Services. The Community Advice Team will pass the referral on to the Community Team Manager who will then be responsible for co-ordinating an investigation.

Following a referral to the Social Services, the designated member of staff must prepare a confidential and detailed report using the Trafford pro-forma. This report should also include the initial Wellacre green referral sheet made by the original member of staff who noted the abuse. It is essential that the full and detailed information is written by the designated member of staff and duly signed by the head teacher before being sent to Social Services. The completed form must be sent to the Community Team Manager with three working days and a copy sent to the Director of Education marked confidential and for the attention of the Assistant Education Officer.

Sexual Abuse

Members of staff who suspect that a child may have been sexually abused should consult with the designated member of staff immediately. In this case no attempt should be made to discuss the suspected abuse with either child or parent. Immediate contact with the Community Advice Team must be made.

Abuse by Professionals

Where it is suspected that a case of possible child abuse involves a member of staff as the abuser, the member of staff having concerns should contact the head teacher. In the event that it is the head teacher who is the abuser, immediate contact should be made in strict confidence with the Director of Education

Child to child abuse

Where serious injury is alleged to have been inflicted by one child upon another, or there is an allegation of any sexual abuse by one child of another, the above child protection procedures should be followed.

Approved by the Governors:

Date of Review :