

Safeguarding Children Ysgol Hafan y Môr

Note for Parents or Carers



Parents/Carers should be aware that schools have a responsibility to ensure the well-being of all pupils. This responsibility means that the school:-

- Will have a child protection policy and procedures;
- Should make parents or carers aware of its child protection policy possibly through the school prospectus, and that this may require their child to be referred to the statutory child welfare agencies if they believe that the child or other children may be at risk of significant harm;
- Should endeavour to work with parents/carers regarding the welfare of their child and remain impartial if their child is being, or has been referred.
- Should help parents or carers understand that if a referral is made to social services or the police, it has been made in the best interests of the child and that the school will be involved in any child protection enquiry or police investigation in relation to their child's welfare and educational progress; and
- Keep the parents or carers informed of the welfare and educational progress of the child.

On 1 September 2006, section 175 of the Education Act 2002 came into effect. This introduces a duty on local authorities, the governing bodies of maintained schools, and the governing bodies of further education institutions, to have arrangements in place to ensure they safeguard children and that such arrangements take account of guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Independent schools are required to meet equivalent requirements under standards introduced under the terms of section 157 of the Education Act 2002.

Where a professional has a concern about a child, they will, in general, seek to discuss this with the family and, where possible, seek their agreement to making a referral to social services. However, this should only be done where such a discussion and agreement will not place a child at increased risk of significant harm. That advice will be provided by the local social services department in consultation, where appropriate, with the police.

The designated child protection person at the school should clarify with these statutory agencies, when, how and by whom, the parents or carers will be told about any referral. They should also seek advice as to whether or not the child should be informed of the process.

As a parent or carer you may sometimes feel alone but there is usually somebody you can talk to. Caring for children is not always easy and if you're struggling to cope you may need to ask for help and support to protect your child.

You may find the following helpful:-

- Make time to talk and listen to your child;
- Familiarise yourself with your child's friends and routine;
- Be sensitive to changes in behaviour;
- Teach your child to feel confident to refuse to do anything they feel is wrong;
- Be aware of your child's use of the internet and mobile phone to ensure they don't place themselves at risk.