

Ysgol Y Foryd
Child Protection and Safeguarding
Policy
2024



Date of policy: September 2024

Owned by: Mrs H Williams (Acting Head teacher)

Signed: *H Williams*

Chair of Governors:

Signed:

Policy Review Date: September 2025

School	Local Authority
<p>Designated Safeguarding Lead Person (DSP): Mrs Hannah Williams (Acting Headteacher) Contact 01745 351892</p> <p>Deputy designated safeguarding person (DSP): Mrs Anwen Maher (Family liaison officer)</p> <p>Designated Governor for Child Protection: 1) Ms Jo Matthews</p>	<p>Where schools have urgent and immediate concerns for the safety and welfare of a child or young person, report to:</p> <p>Referrals to Conwy children's services: During office hours telephone 01492 57511. Out of hours 01492 515777</p> <p>Referrals to Denbighshire children's services: 01824712200</p> <p>Police child protection: 101</p> <p>Education Welfare Officer: Mrs Sian Pinneau 01492 575013</p> <p>School attendance and welfare officer: Mrs Helen Taylor 01745 832287</p>

At Ysgol y Foryd we firmly believe that:

- Safeguarding is *everyone's* business.
- all children are entitled to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- the welfare of all our children is paramount.
- working constructively together with personnel from different agencies is important.
- it is important to work in partnership with families - providing support to parents and carers is vital for the protection of our children.
- parents are to be afforded the right to honest, full information as appropriate and the opportunity to express their view and challenge actions.
- child protection is non-discriminatory, avoiding discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, sex or any other improper ground.
- due consideration is given to a child's religious persuasion, cultural and linguistic background.
- due regard is given to the vulnerability of children with any disability, additional learning needs or communication difficulties.
- people who are given responsibility for protecting children are afforded appropriate supervision, support and training.
- pupils should be confident to talk about worries and concerns in school.
- Pupils should be taught about keeping themselves safe in various ways/ areas of learning.

The Welsh Government safeguard children and young people by ensuring schools follow the requirements of:-

- The Education Act 2002
- The Children Act 2004
- The Equality Act 2010
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008
- Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989 – these include 4 key articles relevant to children and education (Article 12/19/28/29)
- The Rights of Children & Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- ‘Prevent Duty Guidance’ for England & Wales – on the duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Welsh Government Circular No.009/2014 Safeguarding Children in Education – Handling Allegations of Abuse Against Teachers and Other Staff
- Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) Act 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard People
- Social services and wellbeing act 2014
- Social Care Wales. (2020, October 30). Wales safeguarding procedures
- Wales End of Physical Punishment Act 2022

Designated Person

The designated person who ensures that the correct child protection procedures are followed at Ysgol y Foryd is the Headteacher, Mrs Hannah Williams. In her absence, responsibility is with Mrs Anwen Maher. Where abuse is suspected or alleged, all staff should report the information to the designated person, who will decide whether to refer the case to investigating agencies in accordance with the procedures established by Conwy. If the safeguarding concern involves the Designated person then the Chair of Governors must be contacted.

At Ysgol Y Foryd we have developed an excellent inter-agency approach to child protection by developing good communication with Social Services, Conwy L.A.C. officer, E.W.O. (Educational Welfare Officer), School Nurse, Police and local authority.

Schools are now informed if a police incident occurs at an address where there are children present. This is known as ‘Operation Encompass’. This allows us to follow up on the child’s wellbeing in school.

At Ysgol y Foryd we recognise that because of the day to day contact with individual children, teachers and other staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse or changes in behaviour.

Definition of Child Abuse

A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer child abuse or neglect. A child is abused or neglected when somebody inflicts harm, or fails to act to prevent harm.

Ysgol Y Foryd’s procedures for Child Protection and Safeguarding:

Posters are displayed around school for all to see and understand. They are also printed onto the back of all staff, visitor, volunteer and Governors badges.

Taking action

Abuse or the suspicion of abuse may come to your attention as a result of:

- A disclosure
- Observation of bruises/burns etc. for which the explanation given is not plausible
- Another pupil/parent may give you information
- You may observe changes in behaviour that worry you
- You may instinctively feel something is wrong
- There are neglect issues

Where a member of staff has concerns about the welfare of a child they should immediately report their concerns onto 'My Concern' which instantly notifies the designated child protection teacher/headteacher, who will appropriately consider the concern and what actions, if any, should be taken.

Making a referral

- If the Designated Child Protection Teacher/Headteacher decides a referral is necessary they should immediately telephone the Social Services Duty Officer. If the pupil lives in Denbighshire then the designated officer would call Denbighshire children's gateway. Telephone referrals should be followed up with completion and return of forms within 48 hours from the initial telephone call. A copy should be kept for your records and an update logged onto 'My Concern'. There must not be any delay in making the referral. Professionals cannot remain anonymous when making a referral.
- When making a child protection referral parental consent is not required however, after consultation with children's services when the verbal referral is made staff may be advised to seek parental consent.
- Social Services will assess whether the concern is child in need of *support* or child in need of *protection*.
- If a member of staff is informed that a child has disclosed that he/she has been abused, the member of staff MUST NOT take the child through a formal interview to confirm the teacher's concerns but must IMMEDIATELY refer the matter to the designated child protection teacher/headteacher.
- The designated child protection teacher/headteacher should be immediately notified of all referrals made to the child and family services team.
- If there are concerns of a child protection nature and the child is about to leave the school premises the designated child protection teacher/headteacher should be informed. They, in consultation with Social Services, will decide on the next step to be taken.
- Referrers should receive a response, in writing, from Child and Family Services within 10 working days. If this does not happen referrers should follow up to establish what decisions have been taken regarding the referral and any actions.
- Staff will be informed of relevant information in respect of individual cases regarding child protection on a "need to know basis" only. Any information shared with a member of staff in this way must be held confidentially to themselves.

- If the individual reporting the concern disagrees with the designated child protection teacher/head teacher's decision that a referral is not necessary, they must make the referral and inform the designated child protection teacher/headteacher of this.

This school recognises it has a responsibility to refer concerns and not to investigate.

If a child in school has an injury and there is reason to believe that it has been caused by abuse, the following action should be taken.

- If the injury is serious and warrants urgent medical attention, the child should be taken to the A&E Department. In an emergency the 999 service should be used.
- Child and family services must be informed of this course of action IMMEDIATELY as they may wish to make arrangements for the child to be examined by a paediatrician on arrival at Hospital. It should be made clear that it is a case of suspected child abuse.
- In cases where there is reasonable cause to believe that the injury or abuse is caused by the parent or carer, all staff must remember that the interests of the child are paramount and should, therefore, discuss their concerns with the social services or the police who will make the decision as to when the parents/carers will be notified.

Subsequent Action

- All referrals must be confirmed in writing to child and family services within 48 hours from the initial telephone call.
- In a case of suspected child abuse, if it is in the best interest of the child, the Headteacher can allow a child to be interviewed on the school premises at the request of the police and/or social services. Any statement resulting from an interview in school must be read by the Headteacher and signed as an accurate record of what was said.

Dealing with Disclosures

It is important that you:

- Do not interrogate the child
- Do not take the child to another adult for them to repeat the disclosure
- Do not promise to keep secrets if the disclosure is of a CP nature; explain that you will need to speak to someone else who will be able to help him/her.
- Act promptly
- Note your concerns
- Give as much information as you know about the child to the designated child protection teacher/headteacher
- Do not challenge someone you suspect may be involved in abusing children (even if this person is a colleague)

Confidentiality

Child protection raises issues of confidentiality that should be clearly understood by all staff. A child's trust can place heavy responsibility on teachers, particularly if the child does not want the information disclosed. Staff have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly investigative agencies.

If a child confides in a member of staff and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff tells the child sensitively that the matter will be discussed with people who need to know about it and that they will treat the matter confidentially. It is essential that staff do not make promises of confidentiality that they may not be able to keep. Staff should be aware that the way in which they respond to a child could affect the validity of the evidence that may be put forward if there are criminal proceedings. The chief task at this stage is to listen to the child. It is inappropriate to enquire into the details of the abuse, nor should the child be asked to repeat the story.

Having established that there is cause for concern, the designated child protection co-ordinator should report the matter to social services. It is important to remember to:

- take what the child says seriously.
- react calmly.
- explain to the child what will happen next.
- check that you are clear about what the child is telling you.
- keep any questions to a minimum and never lead the child.
- use the words the child uses.

Recording Disclosures

All disclosures must be recorded on My Concern as soon as possible. Include the date, time and place; any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the pupil, plus a diagram, if appropriate, to record the site of any bruising. Staff record exactly what has been shared with them, without drawing any assumptions, or making any judgements. They are signed and shared with the Headteacher.

Case Conference and Core groups

Reports prepared for any case conferences are completed by the Headteacher in liaison with staff using an appropriate format. The Headteacher, Mrs Hannah Williams will attend child protection case conferences or in her absence Mrs Anwen Maher will attend. In cases of alleged child abuse which goes to court, the court may require us to provide our child protection records. Hence, the records on My Concern being so important. The Education (Schools Records) Regulations 1989 (SI No.1261) which allows parents access to school records, do not require the disclosure to them of any information in relation to the protection of children against child abuse. This includes information relating to actual or suspected abuse. My Concern records thus remain confidential to the school.

Children on the Child Protection Register

Social Services will inform the Headteacher if a pupils' name has been placed on (or removed from) the Child Protection Register (CPR). When a child on the CPR changes school, information will be transferred to the child's new school immediately and the custodian of the Child Protection Register will be informed.

Monitoring Pupils

Ysgol y Foryd monitors carefully any child who is suspected of suffering abuse, neglect or is on the C.P. register. Staff are vigilant in detecting any signs which suggest a deterioration in the child's home circumstances.

Safer recruitment:

Safer practice in recruitment means thinking about and including issues to do with child protection and safeguarding and prompting the welfare of children at every stage of the process. The recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff must be made in accordance

with Corporate procedures and must be complaint with the WAG Circular 34/2002 “Child Protection: Preventing Unsuitable People from Working with Children and Young Persons in the Education Service”.

Disclose and Barring/Disclose checks are a vital mechanism for identifying potential staff who could pose a risk to children and young people. In the event that either of the above checks reveals a conviction(s), caution(s) or additional information, the HR department will first of all obtain confirmation that the information on the disclosure does relate to the prospective employee and ask for an explanation of the circumstances.

On receipt of that information, the Head of Service will make a decision as to whether or not the applicant should be recruited and will liaise with the Headteacher or relevant head of service (non-school based staff).

The appointment of staff prior to the receipt of disclosure checks is made in accordance with CCBC/schools ‘safer recruitment policy’ and a risk assessment must be completed by the Head teacher or head of service beforehand.

Parents

In certain circumstances, parents will be informed as soon as possible about any concerns with their child. However, there are times when this is not possible (when the perpetrator lives within the family home) for example. The immediate action of the school is to contact social services and make them aware of both the concern and details of facts which might involve the alleged abuser living in the family home. The Headteacher will make social services aware of these matters.

Radicalisation

All members of school are aware of the Welsh Government published guidance on – Respect and Resilience; Developing community cohesion – a common understanding for schools and their communities which sets out the role that schools have in developing and supporting strategic approaches to promoting and maintaining community cohesion and eradicating violent extremism (2011). During 2012 the UK Government launched a refocused Prevent Strategy – details of which can be found in the ‘Keeping Learners Safe Document’ (page 51, & 52).

As part of our ongoing safeguarding and child protection duties we are fully behind the government’s Prevent Strategy.

From 1 July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty for Schools.

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. The Home Office has developed a core training product for this purpose – Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP). All our Key staff have received WRAP training sessions from North Wales Police on what Prevent is about and how to deal with any issues they may see inside or outside school.