

## Contacts

### **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) (for all referrals and advice)**

Tel: 0300 126 1000 (Option 1)

Email: [mash@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mash@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

### **Emergency Duty Team (out of hours emergencies)**

01604 626 938

### **Local Authority Designated Officer**

Tel: 01604 367 268

Email: [ladoreferral@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:ladoreferral@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

Thanks are extended to Leicestershire County Council Safeguarding Team for allowing Northamptonshire to adapt their materials for our county use.

# Education child protection

Child protection information for staff and volunteers in schools, colleges and all settings where children receive formal education.



**This leaflet provides an overview of child protection and your broad responsibilities. It is not intended to replace the need for staff to know the relevant policies and procedures of their school.**

## Definitions

**Staff** includes all adults working with children, in whatever capacity or setting, paid or unpaid.

**Children** includes children and young people under the age of 18.

## School

- Includes any setting where children/young people receive formal education
- Staff in schools are well placed to notice possible signs of abuse because of the daily contact with children
- All staff are responsible for reporting concerns about a child. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action
- All schools have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to whom concerns should be reported. In their absence, there will be an appointed deputy for child protection to whom you should report.

## Child abuse means

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect,  
of a child and young person under 18.

## Signs of abuse may be

### Obvious and sudden, such as:

- An injury
- A child tells you they have been ill treated
- A child is showing concern about the way an adult is behaving towards them
- A child tells you about another child who is being mistreated, an adult tells you they are concerned about the abuse of a child.

### Part of a picture over a longer period, such as:

- A child who is regularly dirty, unsuitably clothed or hungry
- A child who is showing unusual behaviour for their age
- Deterioration in work or lack of interest
- A child who is isolated, distressed or angry.

## What you should do?

- You must immediately report any concern about a child to the DSL
- Record what has been noticed or said and sign and date it. Give this to the DSL
- Keep what has happened confidential to as few people as possible who need to know
- It is not your job to investigate concerns about a child or talk to the parents.

## If a child tells you about abuse

- Treat what the child tells you seriously
- Reassure the child they have done the right thing by telling you
- Do not question the child or put words in their mouth
- Do not promise to keep what they said a secret
- Tell the child you will have to pass on what they have said
- Do not speak to the child's parents
- Immediately report the information to the DSL
- Record what the child has said, in their own words as far as possible, sign, date and give it to the DSL.

## What happens next?

- The DSL will gather information and decide whether to refer to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- The MASH team will decide on further action
- The DSL should let you have some feedback
- If you feel you cannot report the concerns to the DSL or their appointed deputy you must still take action and report the concerns to the Headteacher, (if the Headteacher is not the DSL), or contact the MASH on 0300 126 1000.

## Concerns about the conduct of a member of staff

- You must report to the Headteacher any concern that indicates that a member of staff or a volunteer may be a risk to children
- If the concern is about the Headteacher you must report it to the Chair of Governors or, in their absence, contact the LADO as soon as possible on 01604 367 268 or contact the MASH
- Record what you have noticed or what has been said and sign and date it.

**Keep the matter confidential**