

Child Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Our Commitment: -

Children and young people are part of our community, entrusted upon us by Allah.

- It is therefore our duty, our responsibility and our privilege to nurture them in learning moral values and in obedience to Allah.
- As staff and leaders of this school, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all the young pupils in our care.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of our pupils and report any discovered abuse, in order to ensure that the young person and his family are given the necessary support to prevent future incidents.
- We acknowledge our responsibility to care for and support our staff and volunteers in dealing with this sensitive issue.
- Leicester Social Services Department, 60 Malabar Road, Leicester, LE1 2PD. (0116) 262 8754.
- Leicester City Local Safeguarding Board – LSCB, Suite 4, Bridge Park Plaza, Bridge Park Road, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8ZW, (0116) 252 7772 / (0116) 260 0004.
- All teachers attended the *Child Protection Services* Training in partnership with FMO (Federation of Muslim Organisations, Leicestershire) on the 8th March 2008 – Training provided by Pat Nowrockyi - Head of CPC Unit & Dawn Halford – Team Manager, Social Services Leicester City Council.

The child protecting officers have completed full child protecting training on 17th April 2008 (safeguarding children – a shared responsibility) with Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding children board. The training will be reviewed & updated before April 2010

**Child Protection Officers at Leicester Community Islamic
School:**

**Mr Imran Tai & Mrs Amina Patel
Telephone: (0116) 274 1626**

Child Protection means protecting children against abuse and non-accidental injury. It applies to children below the age of 18.

Child Abuse means physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or severe neglect. The following are detailed examples of abuses:

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is when someone deliberately hurts or injures you. Hitting, kicking, beating with objects, throwing and shaking are all physical abuse, and can cause pain, cuts, bruising, broken bones and sometimes even death. No one has the right to hurt you in this way.

What is physical abuse?

Physical abuse is when someone is hurting you.

That could be hurting you with their hands, their feet, or an object, hitting, slapping, punching, pinching, kicking or suffocating you. It could include scalding or burning you or pulling your hair out.

If someone makes you swallow something that hurts, or makes you ill, including giving you medicine when you are not ill or do not need it, that's physical abuse too.

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No one has the right to hurt you. If you speak out about physical abuse, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

What is emotional abuse?

Emotional abuse is when someone tries to make you feel bad. This can be saying things to scare you, putting you down, embarrassing or humiliating you. This might be on purpose or without realising what they are saying or doing is making you feel bad. If someone is always telling you that you're ugly, or fat, or stupid, or worthless, or

that they wish you'd never been born, that's emotional abuse. It's wrong, even if they are not doing it on purpose.

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No one has the right to emotionally abuse you. If you speak out about it, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is when:

- You're being touched in a way you don't like.
- You're being forced to have sex.
- You're forced to look at sexual pictures or videos.
- You're made to watch someone do something sexual. This can include someone flashing or exposing themselves to you.
- You're made to do something sexual to someone that feels uncomfortable or wrong.

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No one has the right to sexually abuse you, even your boyfriend or girlfriend. If you speak out about it, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

It doesn't matter who the person is that is making you do these things, they are sexually abusing you. It is possible to be sexually abused by someone you know and love. This does not make what they are doing OK.

Neglect

Neglect is when you are not being looked after or supervised properly. If the people who are supposed to look after you don't give you the important things you need, or make it hard for you to take care of yourself, then that's neglect.

How do I know if I'm being neglected?

You could be suffering from neglect if:

- You don't have enough warm clothes or shoes.
- You don't have enough to eat and drink.
- You're left alone for a long time, or left in charge of family without adult help.
- You're forced to sleep somewhere cold or uncomfortable.
- No one helps you when you're are ill or you've been hurt.

If this is happening to you, you might think that it's your fault. It isn't. No one has the right to neglect you. If you speak out about neglect, there are people who care - they will listen to you and help you.

The following people may notice signs of abuse or be told of possible abuse:

- Teachers.
- Employees in school such as ancillary, clerical or administrative staff or lunchtime supervisors.
- Play leaders / workers, officers in charge, managers, proprietors, and care staff.
- Governors, voluntary helpers or trainees and any other visitors to the premises, e.g. health visitors, social worker.

The Principal, Head Teachers, Child Protection Officers and Teachers must record all issues relating to child protection and if necessary, contact the social services immediately.

Signs

Staff and adults are well placed to notice possible sign of abuse in children.

Signs of abuse may be:

- (a) Obvious and sudden, for example an injury.
- (b) Part of a picture over a longer period, perhaps including:

- Behaviour which is unusual for the child or its age.
- Failing in studies due to a lack of interest.
- Isolation or introversion.

(c) Evidence of neglect, e.g. malnutrition, constant hunger, inadequate clothing or frequent minor injuries.

Any member of staff or volunteer, who learns that a child has been physically or sexually assaulted, should immediately inform the Child Protection Officer.

1. A child may directly inform a member of staff / volunteer, or talk to another child who speaks to a member of staff / volunteer, or the child's behaviour may lead to suspicion, or the member of staff / volunteer, may become aware of a problem in some way other.
2. Any type of concern should be reported to the Child Protection Officer without delay.
3. Staff and volunteers will never promise a child that a matter will be treated as confidential. They will explain that the Child Protection Officer needs to be informed, so that help can be sought.
4. If a child begins to speak of an abusive incident, they should be listened to carefully and with compassion and belief, but should not be asked any leading questions, or cross-examined in any way.
5. If the child is injured, medical attention must be sought without delay.
6. Anything the child says must be recorded in writing and given to the Child Protection Officer without delay.
7. Keep a careful watch on the child.
8. Keep an accurate record of what you have noticed, what has happened and what you have done.
9. It is not your job, nor is it appropriate, to investigate the matter. It will be the duty of the person who is responsible for child protection in the establishment to gather enough information to contact the social services department.

10. Do not speak with anyone about whom allegations are made, even if the allegations are about a fellow colleague or another adult; this is the responsibility of the designated child protection person to organise.
11. If there are any circumstances in which you feel that you cannot refer to the designated person for child protection, you have the right as a citizen to contact the social services department yourself.
12. The Child Protection Officer will immediately inform the principal of any allegations or suspicions that a pupil is being harmed or neglected in any way.
13. (a) If the matter is one of suspicion, the Child Protection Officer will contact the social services for guidance as soon as possible.

(b) If there is a direct allegation, the Child Protection Officer will contact the social services department duty officer immediately.

(c) If the allegation is about a third party, Leicester Community Islamic School will take advice from the social services and then the child protection officer or the principal will contact the parents.
14. The child will be given reassurance, support and as much information as possible about what will happen next.
15. Once the matter has been referred to the duty officer, the Child Protection Officer will pass on all information and will continue to liaise with social services, to give and receive information.
16. The school will co-operate in any enquiry/investigation, offering support to the child and family as required.

If the Allegation Concerns a Member of Staff or a Volunteer:

1. The Child Protection Officer must be informed without delay.
2. The Child Protection Officer will inform the Principal without delay.

3. The social services department duty officer and the police will then be informed.
4. The school will take advice from the social services, on this matter regarding the staffs who were involved, before making any decision.
5. The Child Protection Officer and the principal will discuss the management of the staff member/volunteer pending enquires by the authorities. Example suspension, disciplinary action, or ensuring the person against whom an allegation is made has no direct contact with young people pending enquires, by the authorities.