



Mrs. Dunlop is the senior member of staff with responsibility for child protection matters affecting pupils at the school. All members of the school Child Protection team are trained and this ensures that there is always a qualified person at school. This team consists of Mrs. N. Philpott, Mrs. Smith and Mr. P Lynch is the school governor for child protection.

The school's Safeguarding policy explains how St. Joseph's School deals with child protection concerns, including allegations about the behaviour of staff. This policy can be found on the school website: <http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/information/policies/>

Schools **MUST** follow:

- ◆ The Law
- ◆ Guidance from Department for Education
- ◆ Local Multi -Agency Child Protection Procedures

If the School is worried about a pupil's welfare or a disclosure is made by a child they **MUST** refer this to Children's Social Care. We will normally let parents/carers know if we make a referral if it is appropriate to do so, and will not cause further harm.

F or advice, information, or you feel unsafe or worried about a friend/child who you think may be being abused or mistreated, please call:

- **Bracknell Forest Social Care Duty Team** (9am -5pm Mon -Fri) : 01344 352020. Out of Hours Duty Team : 01344 786543
- **Domestic Abuse:** Berkshire Women's Aid: 0118 9504003
- **Victim Support:** 01344 411411
- **Police Domestic Abuse Unit:** 01344 823481
- **Citizens Advice Bureau** —0845 1202969
- **Family Rights Group** — 08007311696
- **Childline** —08001111
- **NSPCC**— 08008085000
- **Parentline**—08008002222
- **Smaritans**— 08457909090
- **Law Society**—02072421222

CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gipsy Lane

Bracknell

RG12 9AP

Telephone: 01344 425246



Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.

Families have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment.

All schools have a legal duty to work with other agencies, for example, Children's Social Care and the Police, to safe-guard children's welfare.

This leaflet will explain to you what that means in practice. It also tells you where you can get more information or help.



ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

What is significant harm?

Professionals who work with children believe that there are four main ways in which children suffer harm or abuse. These are:

- **Physical** When adults injure or hurt a child or knowingly do not prevent them being injured.
- **Emotional** When children are persistently denied love and affection. Children suffer when they are constantly shouted at, threatened, ridiculed or taunted. Children also suffer when their carers are in an abusive relationship. The child may lose confidence and self esteem and become nervous or withdrawn.
- **Neglect** This occurs when adults fail to meet children's basic needs such as food, clothing, warmth and medical care. Leaving young children on their own is another example of neglect.
- **Sexual** When children are used by adults to meet the adult's sexual needs. It includes showing pornographic material, such as videos or magazines.

The school will normally let the pupil's parent (s) know when they do this, but they will not contact the parent(s) if they think that this could put a child or young person at risk of harm.

Referrals: When a School refers a child protection concern to Children's Social Care they must share all relevant information about the pupil.

The Data Protection Act allows Schools to share personal information with other agencies when there are child protection concerns about a child or young person.

Within 24 Hours of receiving the first referral the Children's Social Care team (usually in consultation with other agencies) will decide what should happen next.

They may decide no further action is needed

or

They may decide that it needs looking into further.

What action is taken will depend on the circumstances. Any of the following may be appropriate:

- ⇒ An Initial assessment
- ⇒ Child Protection enquiries - this includes agencies assessing the risks to any children based upon information shared, research and talking to those concerned.
- ⇒ If the referral relates to an allegation about a member of staff, usually a strategy discussion will take place between the School, Local Authority, Child Protection Unit and the Police, to decide what will happen next.

Children's Social Care will contact the parent(s) to let them know what is happening as soon as possible.

You have a right:

- To be heard
- To be kept informed and involved
- To seek legal advice
- To ask for explanations
- To be supported
- To complain (please ask for a leaflet)
- To appropriate confidentiality
- To have an interpreter (if you have a problem communicating in English)
- To have your cultural and religious background taken into account.

Your child has a right:

- To be heard and taken seriously
- To have their views and feelings considered
- To be protected
- To be supported
- To ask for explanations
- To complain
- To be kept involved and informed, according to his/her age and understanding
- To appropriate confidentiality
- To have feelings