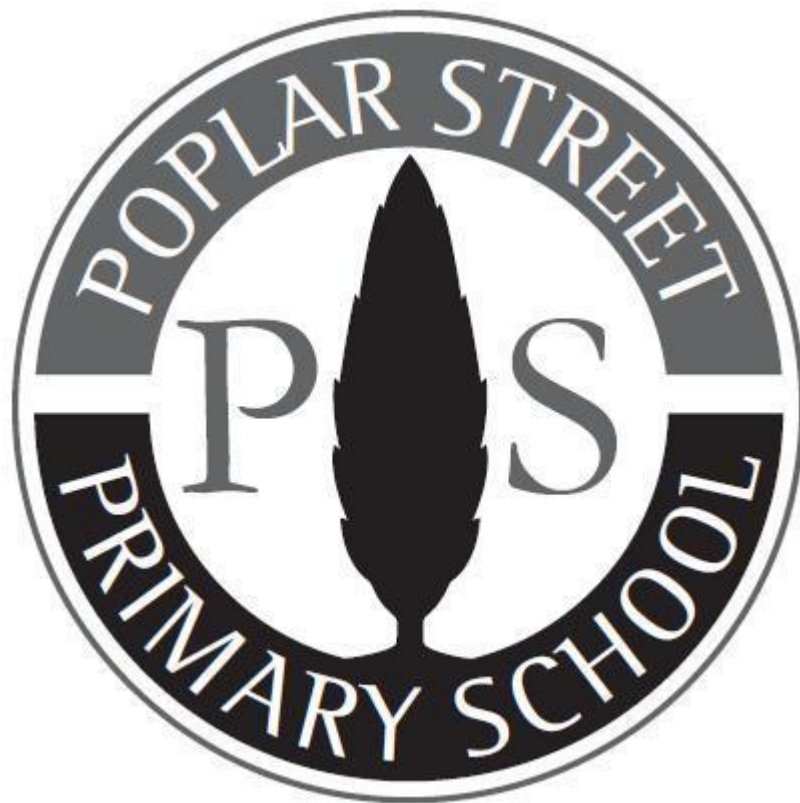


# Poplar Street Primary School



## Child Protection Policy 2015/16



## Child Protection Policy 15/16

### Statement of Purpose

The introduction of this Child Protection Policy should highlight the fact that Poplar Street Primary School are determined to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect from harm, those children and young people who participate within our school community.

This policy establishes the School's position, role and responsibilities and clarifies what is expected from everybody involved within the School. It very clearly highlights the importance placed by Poplar Street in the protection of children and young people.

Every child and young person who participates in the activities of Poplar Street Primary School should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in this organisation. We recognise however, that child abuse is a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved but not to allow them to interfere with our judgment about any action to be taken. Poplar Street Primary School recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. It is determined to meet its obligation to ensure that Poplar Street Primary School provides opportunities for children and young people to do so, with the highest possible standard of care.

This policy is written in line with Tameside Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) Child Protection Procedures and is supported by the TSCB guidance on escalation of concerns and the thresholds document. It is also underpinned and used in conjunction with the School's Safeguarding policy.

Poplar Street Primary School will ensure that:-

The welfare of the child is paramount

All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

All staff (paid/unpaid) working in this organisation have a responsibility to report concerns to:

- **Iain Linsdell (head teacher) or;**
- **Kath Evers, SENCo/DHT; Ann-Marie Barnes Learning Mentor/ Sue Mason Early years SENCO, or;**
- **In the absence of the above, a member of the senior management team,**

## Key Principles

Poplar Street Primary School will take responsibility for:

- Respecting and promoting the rights, wishes and feelings of children and young people.
- Recruitment, training and supervision of all volunteers and staff members to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse.
- Recruitment of all employees and volunteers to adopt and abide by the appropriate codes of conduct and the Child Protection Policies and Procedures outlined within this document.
- Responding to any allegations appropriately.
- Regularly reviewing the policy.
- A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).
- Promoting Good Practice.

Child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation. It is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with your judgment about the appropriate action to take.

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. Some individuals will actively seek employment or voluntary work with young people in order to harm them. There are some people in this organisation that will have regular contact with young people and be an important link in identifying cases where they need protection. All suspicious cases of poor practice should be reported to **Iain Linsdell, Head Teacher** and the guidelines in this policy should be followed.

### **Good Practice means:**

- Always working in an open environment, where possible, avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication.
- Treating all young people equally with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with service users (e.g. it is not appropriate for staff or volunteers to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them).
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust and empowering children to share in decision-making.
- Keeping up to date with training, qualifications and insurance.
- Involving children/young people/ parents/carers wherever possible.
- Being an excellent role model - this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of young people.
- Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises, to administer emergency first aid and or other medical treatment.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details any treatment given.
- Requesting written parental consent if club officials are required to transport young people in their cars.

**Named person for child protection.** The details of the named contact for Poplar Street Primary School is **Iain Linsdell (HT & Child Protection officer)** assisted by **Kath Evers, DHT & SENCo** and the school pastoral team.

### **If you are concerned about a child**

What should you do if a young person reports abuse to you?

If someone discloses that they are being abused, whether in a school setting, then upon receiving the information you should:

- React calmly.
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell and that they are not to blame and take what the child says seriously.
- Keep questions to an absolute minimum to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said. Don't ask about explicit details.
- Reassure but do not promise confidentiality, which might not be feasible in the light of subsequent developments.
- Inform the child/young person what you will do next.
- Make a full and written record of what has been said/heard as soon as possible and don't delay in passing on the information.

### **The report will include the following:**

- The child's name, age and date of birth.
- The child's home address and telephone number.
- Whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else.
- The nature of the allegation, including dates, times and special factors and other relevant information. Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries. Also any indirect signs, such as any behavioural changes.
- Details of witnesses to the incidents.
- The child's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.
- Have the parents been contacted? If so what has been said?
- Has anyone else been consulted? If so, record details.
- Where possible referral to the police or social services should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours and the name of the contact who took the referral should be recorded.

If there are concerns about sharing the above information with a colleague you can contact Children's Social Care in Tameside on 0161 342 4150 or the police direct or the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

### **What Poplar Street Primary School will do next?**

- It is not our responsibility to decide whether abuse has taken place or not, however we will pass on the information to the appropriate authority.
- Write down all of the information so that if we are asked at a later time we can produce a written report.

Severe and obvious cases of abuse will be reported immediately.

Children's Social Care, have a statutory duty under The Children Act 1989 to ensure the welfare of a child. When a child protection referral is made, they have legal responsibility to investigate and all agencies have a duty to co-operate with those investigations. This may involve talking to the child and their family, and gathering information from other people who know the child. Enquiries may be carried out jointly with the police. Clearly then concerns about children must not be taken lightly. The protection of children is paramount and if we have any concerns about a child being abused or neglected we will contact:

**Children's Social Care Hub**  
**56 Warrington Street**  
**Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7JX**  
**Telephone number: 0161 342 4150**

## **Types of Abuse and Neglect**

Signs/indicators of abuse and neglect are helpful if they are used with some caution.

They are not necessarily evidence of abuse or neglect. However, if you are concerned about a child or young person they can help you think about why you have that concern.

### **Signs that may suggest physical abuse:**

- Any bruising to a baby - pre-walking stage.
- Multiple bruising to different parts of the body.
- Bruising of different colours indicating repeated injuries.
- Fingertip bruising to the chest, back, arms or legs.
- Burns of any shape or size.
- An injury for which there is no adequate explanation.

### **Signs of possible sexual abuse**

- Something a child has told you.
- Something a child has told someone else.
- A child who shows worrying sexualised behaviour in their play or with other children.
- A child who seems to have inappropriate sexual knowledge for their age.
- A child who may be visiting or being looked after by a known or suspected sexual offender.

### **Signs which may suggest emotional harm**

The following signs may be present in children whose parents are over-critical and emotionally distant, or who are unable to meet their child's emotional needs:

- Children whose behaviour is excessive. For example, excessive bedwetting, overeating, rocking, head banging.
- Children who self-harm. For example, they may cut or scratch themselves or overdose.
- Children who attempt suicide.
- Children who persistently run away from home.
- Children who show high levels of anxiety, unhappiness or withdrawal.
- Children who usually seek out or avoid affection.

### **Signs which may suggest neglect:**

- Squalid, unhygienic or dangerous home conditions.
- Parents who fail to attend to their children's health or development needs.
- Children who appear persistently undersized or underweight.
- Children who continually appear tired or lacking in energy.
- Children who suffer frequent injuries due to lack of supervision.

Please note that these lists are possible indicators of abuse, and any signs of abuse have to be considered in context.

## **Positive ways of protecting children**

### What do children need?

- To feel safe and secure.
- Health and happiness.
- Appropriate affection.
- Lots of smiles.
- Praise and encouragement.
- To be able to talk to someone.
- To be listened to.
- New experiences.
- Respect for their feelings.
- Rewards and treats.

**What to do if you are worried:**

If you are unsure that a child may be suffering but are worried, please contact Tameside Children’s Social Care Hub 0161 342 4150.

If you are concerned that a child has suffered harm, neglect or abuse, please Contact Tameside Children’s Social Care 0161 342 4150.

In an emergency outside normal office hours, please contact Tameside Emergency Service 0161 342 2222 0161 342 3009 or the Police 0161 872 5050.

**References**

Tameside’s Safeguarding Children’s Board (TSCB) produces Child Protection procedures, which are for the use of all agencies and staff in Tameside. They can be obtained via:

The TSCB Administrator, Quality Assurance Unit,  
Union Street, Hyde,  
SK14 1ND.  
0161 342 4346

Also via the TSCB Website:

[www.tameside.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/childprotection)

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and its effectiveness will be evaluated through an annual audit.

Signed for and on behalf of the Governing Body,

..... chair of governors

..... date

# **Guidance on the Escalation of concerns about the welfare of children and young people in Tameside**



# Guidance on the Escalation of concerns about the welfare of children and young people in Tameside

## Introduction

1.1 In Tameside there are well developed processes for inter-agency working to ensure that concerns about the welfare of children and young people are responded to in a timely and co-ordinated way. These processes include the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the TSCB Safeguarding Children Framework.

1.2 This guidance is not intended to replace those processes but is intended to assist practitioners in situations where they consider that the response of another agency/practitioner has not been proportionate to the level of risk or need.

1.3 This guidance should not be used as a replacement for the principles of working in partnership which involves open dialogue, good communication, building trust and a willingness to challenge and be challenged in a supportive environment.

1.4 When practitioners are not working well together this may have an impact on a child's development or even place the child at risk of harm. Examples where practitioners have concerns about the welfare of children may arise where they perceive other practitioners:

Not recognising need or the signs of harm

Not sharing information about a child's welfare

Not accepting referrals for services

Not delivering services

Not co-operating in delivering planned interventions

1.5 Each TSCB member agency should have their own procedures in place for dealing with concerns within their own setting. On those occasions where concerns need to be raised with another agency, practitioners should ensure this happens as soon as possible and that discussions are clearly recorded.

## Escalation process

1.6 In most cases the Lead Professional or Lead Worker should be the first contact and if that does not resolve the concerns their manager should be contacted. If it is felt that this not an appropriate way to resolve the issue advice should be sought from your manager **within one working day.**

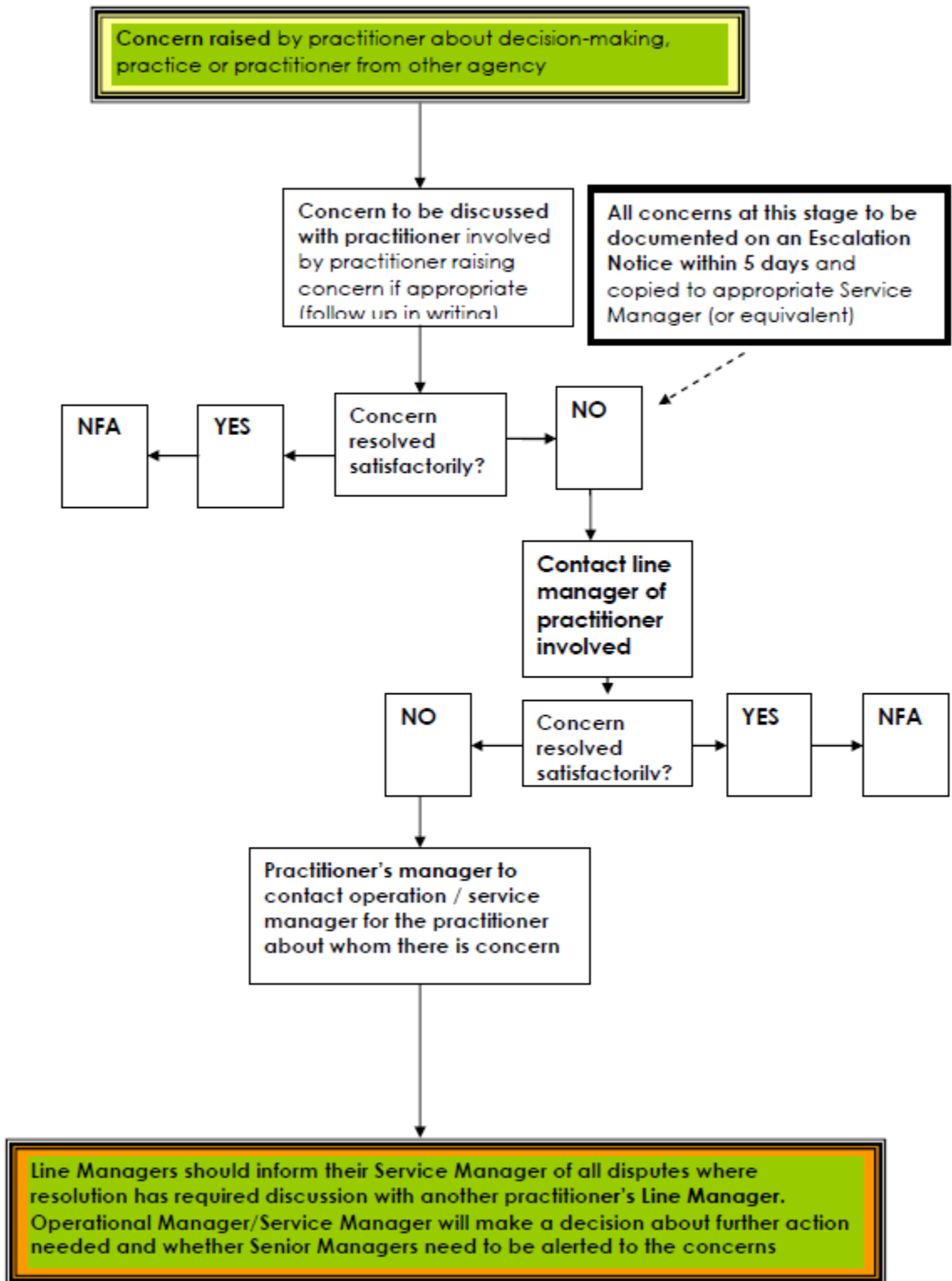
1.7 For cases involving Children's Social Care the concerns should be discussed initially with the case social worker or duty social worker (depending on whether the case is already allocated), and followed up in writing. If this does not resolve the problem the Social Work Team Manager should be alerted – by phone, in writing or by e mail.

1.8 If the issue remains unresolved the practitioners Manager should contact the Operational/Service Manager for the practitioner about whom there is a concern. The Operational/Service Managers will also be available for discussion on urgent or sensitive cases.

1.9 The Safeguarding Children Unit will continue to offer consultation and advice on cases and will intervene to help resolve issues if that is appropriate. Safeguarding Children Unit staff will always follow up cases where there are immediate concerns about a child – they will not be left until a team manager is available.

1.10 To document the issues you wish to raise please use the **Escalation Notice** to record information and forward to the manager dealing with your concerns. **(Appendix B)**. Ensure it is copied to appropriate Service Manager (or equivalent) **within 5 working days**.

Appendix A



**Appendix B**

**Escalation Notice**

(to be used in conjunction with Guidance)

Name of Child/Young Person:	D.O.B

Please document any information of concern.

Signed:.....Role.....

Dated:.....

Who has a copy of this notice been sent to? .....