

children

This leaflet aims to help parents understand the process of protecting children and procedures which we, as a school, have to follow.

At Shortstown Primary School we see children's welfare as of paramount importance. We are committed to working with parents to ensure that our pupils have a happy, safe and good learning environment both at school and at home.

As a school we are committed to and have a legal duty to safeguard your child's welfare. We follow the model policies and protocols outlined by Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board in order to ensure the welfare of our children. All members of staff in school are trained in Safeguarding and are committed to ensuring the safety of all our pupils.

People to contact

- Mrs Denise Cottam
- Head Teacher, Child Protection Officer
- Mrs Gina Bobbett
- Inclusion Leader, Child Protection officer
- Mrs Corinne Royden
- Child Protection Governor
- Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board
- www.bedfordshirelscb.org.uk
 - Tel: 0300 300 6676

Further Information

- School policies, including Child Protection and Safeguarding Children policies. These can be found on our website or as a request from the school office.
- NSPCC (www.nspcc.org.uk)
- Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board
www.bedfordshirelscb.org.uk
Tel: 0300 300 6676

Shortstown Primary School

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Shortstown



Primary School

Child Protection in school

Guidance for parents
and carers



Shortstown Primary School is an inclusive school which has a positive impact on children's lifelong learning and achievement through high expectations in a creative and motivating environment.

carers

If the school is worried about a pupil's welfare and that a child is at risk of harm, we **must legally** look into the matter and follow

- The law
- Guidance from the Department for Education
- The local multi-agency child protection procedures.

What sort of Harm?

Harm in these circumstances means child abuse or child maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by harming them or not acting to prevent harm.

Harm is defined by the NSPCC as:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

Enquiries also have to be made if a child is living with someone who has previously been involved in the abuse of another child.

What will school do?

If a member of staff is concerned that a child is at risk or suffering harm, they will report it to the child protection officer (as listed on this leaflet).

The officer will investigate the matter and decide whether it is necessary to contact social services. If the officer does have concerns about the child's welfare, they must, by law, refer this on to a social worker.

When the child is referred, school must share all relevant information about the pupil. The Data Protection Act allows schools to share personal information with other agencies where there are child protection concerns.

School may let the child's parent(s) know when the child is referred, but will not contact parents if we think this could put the child at risk. School will seek advice first.

What happens next?

A social worker, sometimes together with a police officer, will talk to everyone in the family. The social worker will talk to all children who are old enough to find out how they feel and what worries them.

If there are a lot of concerns about a child a meeting called a child protection conference will be arranged. People who know the child and their family eg: teacher, doctor, or health visitor, will be invited to this meeting, together with parents, partners and in some cases older children.

The conference will talk about what has happened and what can be done to help. If necessary a child protection plan will be agreed of all the things people should do to help the child and the family.

Sometimes it may be necessary for a doctor to see a child. This will normally be a doctor who has a lot of experience working with children. If there are other children in the family they may also need to be seen

to make sure that they are OK. Parents will be asked permission before the child is seen.

Social services will contact the parents/carer to let them know what is happening as soon as possible.

Will my child be taken away from me?

This is often a very real concern for families. In a lot of cases, it is assessed that it is in the best interest of the child to remain at home with their families. This is often where problems are sorted out most effectively. However, the law says that children's social care must make sure that children are safe. If it is not safe for a child to continue to live at home the social worker will see if the child can stay with another member of the family. If that is not possible the social worker will arrange for the child to stay with a foster carer or in a child's residential home until it is safe for the child to go back home.

What happens after the investigation?

One of several things may happen:

- No further action is taken.
- Advice and support is offered (this may be provided by other professionals or agencies).
- A meeting is arranged to decide what will happen next.