



HOLY CROSS R C PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND GUIDELINES

HOLY CROSS RC PRIMARY

At Holy Cross we are committed to equality and dignity, therefore we believe that every child has a right to an upbringing which promotes their emotional, physical, social, intellectual and cultural well-being and where possible, a child's needs are best met within the family. The needs, rights and interests of the child should be paramount at all times.

Aims of Child Protection

The main focus of child protection is the child's welfare. In practice all staff respect and pay attention to the:

- ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child and encourage their participation in decision making, as appropriate to their age and level of understanding.
- pupil's physical, social, emotional and educational needs.
- Likely effect on the pupil of any change in circumstance.
- Pupil's age, sex, background, religious persuasion, racial origin, cultural and linguistic background.
- Individuality of every pupil.

Approaches to Child Protection

At Holy Cross all staff are alert to signs which may indicate that a pupil is suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm and this knowledge informs their decision as to what course of action they need to take.

Our policy is in line with the guidance and procedures laid down by North Tyneside-Children's Services. (Revised/Updated Sep 98)

All staff are aware of the need to alert the Headteacher when they believe a child has been abused or at risk of abuse. The Headteacher will contact Children's Services.

The Headteacher records any referrals and other action regarding Child Protection.

The Headteacher is the Contact Person at Holy Cross Primary.

It is recognised that school has an important role to play in the recognition and referral stage.

(Page 74 75 88 89:Section 3 North Tyneside Child Protection Procedures.)

(Signs of Abuse – see next page.)

North Tyneside Child Protection Procedures File is kept in the Headteacher's Office.

Definitions of Child Abuse

**Signs and Symptoms are in line with
North Tyneside's Area Protection Committee**

A Definition of Child Abuse

'Child abuse consists of anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospects of a safe and healthy development into adulthood'

- National Commission on Child Abuse: Reported 1996

Gil says every child, despite his individual differences and uniqueness, is to be considered of equal intrinsic worth and hence should be entitled to equal social, economic, civil and political rights, so that he may fully realise his inherent potential and share equally in life, liberty and happiness. Therefore, any act of commission or omission by individuals, institutions or society as a whole ... which deprives children of equal rights or liberties and/or interferes with their optimal development, constitutes by definition, abusive or neglectful acts or conditions.

(David Gil: Unravelling Child Abuse USA 1975)

Definition of Child Abuse

North Tyneside Area Child Protection Committee has agreed that the following definitions given by 'Working Together; are to be used within North Tyneside Child Protection Procedures.

NEGLECT:

The persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non organic failure to thrive.

PHYSICAL INJURY:

Actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocation and 'Induced Illness Syndrome'.

SEXUAL ABUSE:

Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and/or developmentally immature.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE:

Actual or likely severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioural development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection. All abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment. This category should be used where it is the main or sole form of abuse.