



HOLMWOOD HOUSE

PUPILS ON CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is when someone under 18 is being harmed, or is not being looked after properly. It is no respecter of class, wealth or ethnicity. People who abuse children may look, and otherwise behave, as quite ordinary respectable people. This can make it difficult for children to be believed, or to find help.

Every year in Britain, a large number of babies, young children and teenagers are abused, neglected or deliberately harmed. We have to make sure this isn't happening to our pupils. We are all of us responsible for protective children and young people from harm.

Abuse is never right. It is not your choice. The NSPCC says: *“Abuse is always wrong and it is never the young person’s fault.”*

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

The NSPCC defines child abuse as:

“Child abuse is ...when an adult harms a child or a young person under the age of 18...Child abuse can take four forms, all of which can cause long term damage to a child: physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and child sexual abuse. Bullying and domestic violence are also forms of child abuse.

“A child may be experiencing abuse if he or she is:

- *Frequently dirty, hungry or inadequately dressed*
- *Left in unsafe situations, or without medical attention*
- *Constantly “put down,” insulted, sworn at or humiliated*
- *Seems afraid of parents or carers*
- *Severely bruised or injured*
- *Displays sexual behaviour which doesn’t seem appropriate for their age*
- *Growing up in a home where there is domestic violence*
- *Living with parents or carers involved in serious drug or alcohol abuse*

Remember, this list does not cover every child abuse possibility, e.g. FGM, CSE, etc

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED?

Although it may be difficult, it is important to talk to somebody:

- If it happens to you, tell someone whom you trust, at once. You need help.
- If it happens to a friend, advise them to tell someone at once. He or she needs help.

WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?

Dr Ashwell is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead. You can see her at any time if you are being abused, or someone that you know is being abused. You should speak to her even if the abuse is taking place outside school.

Some people may prefer to speak to the school nurse or to another member of staff. The important thing is that you talk to someone whom you trust, who will listen to you. Please remember the following suggested contacts you will have in your prep diary and the 'No one Supports Bullying' information card.

WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE IN SCHOOL?

- Your tutor or any member of staff
- School Nurse
- Mr Mitchell
- Mrs Mitchell
- Dr Ashwell
- Mr McCormack
- Mrs Roberts
- Boarding staff
- A senior pupil or your buddy

WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE OUTSIDE SCHOOL?

- Your parents
- Rev Mark Wallace (Independent Listener) 01206 572641 or 07772 615378
- Mrs Jane Tuckwell (Independent Listener) 01206 575266 or 07896 297458
- Child Line 0800 11 11 www.childline.org.uk
- Beat Bullying 0208 771 3377 www.beatbullying.org

WANT TO TALK TO AN OUTSIDE AGENCY?

- Children and Young People Services on 0845 603 7627. Hours are 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday. This goes through to a main switchboard for Social Services. They will put you through to an appropriate person.
- In an emergency (24 hour telephone line) contact the duty social worker on 0845 606 1212.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Whoever you talk to in school will take you seriously, but won't ask too many questions. We have to be careful to get the right people, who are experienced in keeping children safe to

come and help you. We have to ask experts to advise you. We will work to keep you safe; but you may also need professional support from a specialist.

We promise to do all we can to ensure that the other parts of your life are not disrupted more than is necessary.

Please remember no teacher is allowed to keep this type of information to themselves. They have to pass it on, so that help can be obtained. However, only those who need to know will be told. We will explain this at the time and tell you who has to be told and the reason. We will suggest that you talk to them yourself.

REMEMBER - nobody has the right to abuse children. It is very important that you tell someone.

Reviewed by: _____ **AJM/LJA** _____

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