

As a parent/carer there is usually somebody you can talk to/ask for help and support from.

You may find the following helpful:

Make time to talk/listen to your child;

- ✓ Familiarise yourself with your child's friends and routines;
- ✓ Be sensitive to changes in behaviour;
- ✓ Teach your child to feel confident to refuse to do anything they feel is wrong;
- ✓ Be aware of your child's use of the internet and mobile phone, to ensure they don't place themselves at risk.

As a parent/carer you play a vital role in all that we do, especially when it comes to ensuring all our pupils are safeguarded and protected. As a Federation we ask that you as parents:

- ✓ Talk to staff about any concerns you have for your child;
- ✓ Remember that the school **MUST** share concerns about your child;
- ✓ The school will **NOT** judge you, but they may have to share difficult information;
- ✓ The school **MUST** prioritise the safety and wellbeing of pupils, they cannot keep secrets from other agencies.

We encourage everyone—children, parents, and staff—to speak up if they notice something worrying.

Some signs that a child might need support include:

A child says something worrying

If a child tells a teacher or friend that they're scared, hurt, or not being looked after properly.

Unexplained injuries

If a child has bruises, cuts, or other injuries that don't seem to have a clear explanation.

Unusual behaviour

If a child acts in a way that doesn't match their age, like knowing things they shouldn't or behaving in a very grown-up or withdrawn way.

Poor hygiene or appearance

If a child often comes to school dirty, in clothes that aren't suitable, or with a strong smell.

Always hungry or very tired

If a child regularly seems extremely hungry or tired, more than what's normal.

Fearful or aggressive behaviour

If a child seems very scared, anxious, or is acting out in a very angry or aggressive way.

There are many ways in which staff might become concerned about a child. Staff will always want to assist the child and the family. Discussions with parents are intended to support the family not accuse anyone.

For Further Information please contact the school offices

Child Protection Explained in the Fern Federation



Information for Parents / Carers

Here in the Fen Federation we value our pupils and their futures and we have a responsibility to ensure their well-being. With this in mind we have a child Protection Policy and procedures at school designed to keep our pupils as safe as possible.

As a Parent or carer of our pupils you also have a vital role to play.

Our Federation is part of your community and you are important in helping us keep pupils safe.

This leaflet will hopefully explain our procedures and your role within them.

As a parent we hope you will help us in our legal duties to protect all our pupils. Sometimes we may need to speak to you about your child and your circumstances.

As a Federation we have a duty to contact/refer pupils to the statutory child welfare agencies if we are concerned that a child may be at risk of significant harm. If a referral is made to Social Services or the police it has been made in the best interests of the child and where appropriate you will be notified. The school will be involved in any child protection enquiry or police investigation in relation to a child's welfare and educational progress. We will keep parents/carers informed of the welfare and educational progress of the child.

As a Federation, we will strive to work with you regarding the welfare of your child. Nobody within the Federation will judge you, or accuse you, we simply need to discuss the facts and decide whether you may need some extra help to give your child every opportunity they deserve.

The Child Protection Officer for the Federation are Mrs Haggett & Mrs Smith-Thomas and Mrs Byers.

Our Child Protection policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the Federation.

The main points are:

Safe Adults

We always check that the people who work or volunteer with children are safe and suitable.

Helping Children Stay Safe

We teach children how to stay safe and what to do if they feel worried or scared.

Clear Rules

Our staff follow clear steps to report any concerns about a child's safety.

Extra Support

We give extra help to children who need it, following their child protection plan.

A Safe Place to Learn

We make sure school is a safe and caring place where everyone can learn and grow.

Within this leaflet we have outlined some of the standard procedures the Federation **MUST** follow. None of these procedures are aimed at upsetting or distressing you. They are designed to look at your child's needs and make sure that if your child does need some extra help, they get it.

Staff WILL:

Remember that the priority is to protect the child;

- ✓ Treat the matter seriously;
- ✓ Listen but do not judge;
- ✓ Believe the child;
- ✓ Tell the child that they have done the right thing in telling;
- ✓ Tell the child what will happen next where possible;
- ✓ Inform the Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO's) of all concerns immediately.

Staff WILL NOT:

- ✓ Contact the parents-this is the job of the DSO or social services;
- ✓ Ask lots of questions if a child has disclosed concerning information;
- ✓ Speak to anyone about whom allegations are made (including colleagues);
- ✓ Promise to keep secrets.

The Headteacher will usually discuss concerns with a parent/carer and seek their agreement to make a referral to social services, if such an action will place a child at increased risk of significant harm. The Headteacher will **NOT** ask parents before calling Social Services if:

- ✓ The parent knew of the concerns and did not protect the child;
- ✓ The parent is the cause of concern;
- ✓ The parent would not be able to discuss the concern.