



Child Protection guidelines Ysgol Waunfawr **Note to Parents**

Parents/guardians should be aware that schools have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of all pupils. This responsibility means that:

- the school will have a child protection policy and procedures;
- the school should make parents or guardians aware of its child protection policy, by including it in the school prospectus/school's website, and that this means that it might be necessary to refer their child to the statutory child welfare agencies if it is believed that the child or other children are at risk of suffering considerable harm;
- the school should endeavour to work with parents/guardians regarding their child's welfare, and remain impartial if the child is to be referred or has been referred;
- the school should help parents or guardians to understand that if a child is referred to social services or to the police, it is done with the child's best interests in mind and that the school will contribute to any child protection investigation or police investigation involving their child's welfare and educational progress;
- the school will regularly provide parents/guardians with the latest information concerning their child's welfare and educational progress.

On 1 September 2006, *section 175 of the Education Act 2002* came into force. It places a duty on local authorities, the governing bodies of maintained schools, and the governing bodies of further education institutions to have arrangements in place to ensure that they safeguard children and that these arrangements take into account the guidelines published by the Welsh Government. Independent schools are required to satisfy similar requirements according to the standards introduced under *section 157 of the Education Act 2002*.

If a professional worker has concerns about a child, they will usually attempt to discuss this with the family and, wherever possible, request their permission to refer the child to social services. However, this should only happen where such a discussion or agreement would not place the child at greater risk of suffering considerable harm. The local social services department in consultation will provide this advice, where appropriate, with police.

The designated child protection officer at the school (the head teacher) should be fully informed by these statutory agencies of whom will be informing the parents or guardians that their child might be referred, as well as when and how. They should also seek advice on whether or not the child should be informed of the process.

As a parent or guardian, you may perhaps feel isolated at times but there is usually somebody available to talk to. Caring for children is not always easy, and if you are finding it difficult to cope, you may need to seek help and support in order to protect your child.

The following may be useful:

- Make time to talk to your child and listen to him/her.
- Get to know your child's friends and daily routine.
- Be sensitive to any changes in the child's behaviour.
- Teach your child to feel confident to refuse to do anything which does not feel right.
- Be aware of your child's use of the internet and mobile phone, so as to avoid putting himself/herself in danger.

Important phone numbers regarding Child Protection

Headteacher – Mrs Gwenan Williams – 01286 650451
Special needs co-ordinator – Mrs Hannah Williams – 01286 650451
Governor Representative – Mr Rhodri Sion 01286 650870
Child Protection Team – 01758 704428
Swyddog Llês – Mrs Linda Jones - 07775500977