
CHILD PROTECTION

The Council has a range of duties and responsibilities in relation to the child protection procedures for all which includes having regard for their right to be protected from harm and abuse. The school's duties and responsibilities for this are set out in the Edinburgh and Lothians Child Protection Committee's 'Child Protection Guidelines' which are used by all Midlothian schools and our partner agencies.



In circumstances where a school has a significant concern that a child or young person has, or is at risk of being harmed or abused, the school is required to pass information to the Police, Social Work Department and Health colleagues who have a legal duty to investigate further.

While we always endeavour to work in an open manner with parents and guardians, there are some circumstances when it may not be appropriate to inform the parent or guardian that a Child Protection referral has been made or that information has been passed on to these agencies. Under these circumstances, the decision as to when and how parents and guardians will be informed is the responsibility of the Police, Social Work and Health Services as part of their investigation and the school will be informed by these services of the action that they have taken.

Should you wish to discuss this or any associated matter further, please contact the Head Teacher, who is the school's designated Child Protection Co-ordinator, or the Information Officer, Co-ordinated Services for Children and Young People.

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR OCCASIONAL AND EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Parents are informed by letter or newsletter in advance of planned closures for in service or holiday.

In the event of unplanned closure of the school, that is, in an emergency situation, parents will be informed by the most appropriate method. In the case of closure due to severe weather conditions, parents will be informed on arrival at the school and local radio will regularly broadcast information to parents.

It is against school policy for children to be allowed out of school unaccompanied. In an emergency situation, under no circumstances will children be sent home without a responsible adult to accompany them.



PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

At morning interval and lunchtime pupils are supervised in the playground by both Learning Assistants and Playground Supervisors. Our Better Relationships, Better Behaviour, Better Learning Policy applies fully in the playground. It is important that basic rules of conduct are followed at all times to ensure safety and the consideration of others. We will do whatever is possible to ensure a safe and enjoyable playtime for the children, and our Learning Assistants and Playground Supervisors are expected to take reasonable steps to prevent accidents and to ensure that basic good conduct is maintained. However, it is not possible to guarantee that no such accidents will occur.