

Signs of Abuse Policy

Abuse are forms of maltreating a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. The principles of keeping children safe in education defines the following types of abuse.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Signs of abuse

Possible signs of abuse include, but are not limited to:

- the pupil says he / she has been abused or asks a question or makes a comment which gives rise to that inference;
- there is no reasonable or consistent explanation for a pupil's injury, the injury is unusual in kind or location or there have been a number of injuries and there is a pattern to the injuries;
- the pupil's behaviour stands out from the group as either being extreme model behaviour or extremely challenging behaviour, or there is a sudden or significant change in the pupil's behaviour;
- the pupil asks to drop subjects with a particular teacher and seems reluctant to discuss the reasons;
- the pupil's development is delayed; the pupil loses or gains weight or there is deterioration in the pupil's general wellbeing;
- the pupil appears neglected, e.g., dirty, hungry, inadequately clothed;
- the pupil is reluctant to go home, or has been openly rejected by his / her parents or carers; and
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff or any other person working with children, for example inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role or responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images.

Guidance for staff and volunteers on suspecting or hearing a complaint of abuse

A member of staff or volunteer suspecting or hearing a complaint of abuse:

- must listen carefully to the child and keep an open mind. The member of staff should not take a decision as to whether or not the abuse has taken place;
- must not ask leading questions, i.e., a question which suggests its own answer;
- must reassure the child but not give a guarantee of absolute confidentiality. The member of staff should explain that they need to pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will ensure that the correct action is taken; and
- must keep a sufficient written record of the conversation. The record should include:
 - the date and time;
 - the place of the conversation; and
 - the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence.

The record should be signed by the person making it and should use names, not initials. The record must be kept securely and handed to the designated safe guarding lead as soon as possible.

All evidence, for example, scribbled notes, mobile phones containing text messages, emails, letter memos or files on computers, must be designated safeguarded and preserved and passed to the designated safe guarding lead.

All suspicions or complaints of abuse must be reported to the designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible, unless it is an allegation against a member of staff in which case the procedures set out in Appendix should be followed. If there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child and it is not possible

to report to the designated safe guarding lead then a report should be made to the directors of the school immediately.

Dealing with allegations against members of staff, principals, vice principals, directors or volunteers

The school's procedures

The school's procedures for dealing with allegations made against staff will be used where the member of staff, the Principal, Director or volunteer has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if he or she work regularly or closely with children.

Any allegations not meeting these criteria will be dealt with in accordance with the TAMOS Education child protection policy, teacher discipline policy and the Kazakhstan government Law on the Rights of the Child on August 8, 2002.

Reporting an allegation against a member of staff, principals, directors or volunteers

Where an allegation or complaint is made against any member of staff, director or volunteer, the matter should be reported immediately to the designated safe guarding lead, or in his / her absence to one of the other child protection professionals. Where a councillor receives an allegation, she / he will consult with the school directors and the issue will be discussed with the general director and administration before further action is taken.

Where an allegation or complaint is made against the designated safe guarding lead, the matter should be reported immediately to the school directors and the issue will be discussed with the general director and administration before further action is taken.

Ceasing to use staff

If the School ceases to use the services of a member of staff or volunteer because they are unsuitable to work with children, a settlement/compromise agreement will not be used and a referral to the appropriate authorities will be made as soon as possible if the criteria are met. Any such incidents will be followed by a review of the safeguarding procedures within the school, with a report being presented to the general director and the directors of the school without delay.

If a member of staff or volunteer tenders his or her resignation, or ceases to provide his or her services, any child protection allegations will still be followed up by the school in accordance with this policy and a referral will be made to the appropriate authorities soon as possible if the criteria are met.

Where a teacher has been dismissed, or would have been dismissed had he / she not resigned, separate consideration will be given as to whether a referral to the to the appropriate authorities should be made.

Unsubstantiated, false or malicious allegations

Where an allegation by a pupil is shown to have been deliberately invented or malicious, the school directors will consider whether to take disciplinary action in accordance with the school's behaviour and discipline policy.

Where a parent has made a deliberately invented or malicious allegation the school directors will consider whether to require that parent to withdraw their child or children from the school on the basis that they have treated the school or a member of staff unreasonably.



Whether or not the person making the allegation is a pupil or a parent (or other member of the public), the school reserves the right to contact the police to determine whether any action might be appropriate.

Record keeping

Details of allegations found to be malicious will be removed from personnel records.

For all other allegations, full details will be recorded on the confidential personnel file of the person accused. The record will be retained at least until the individual has reached normal retirement age or for a period of ten years from the date of the allegation, if this is longer.

An allegation proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious will not be referred to in employer references.

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School governor and Cambridge Director

Russian School Director

Kazakh School Director

General Director

