



The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Marie Mann

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8

Safeguarding Children in our Care – Information for Parents/Carers

Wednesday 18th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to make you aware of the practices and procedures in place at The Federation of Middleham VA and Spennithorne VC Primary Schools.

We aim to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment, which secures the well-being and very best outcomes for the children in our care. We have a duty of care to safeguard and promote the well-being of all children. We take this responsibility seriously and as such, we have clear systems and procedures in place to ensure that no child should suffer from harm, at home or at school. Staff receive regular high quality training for safeguarding.

All staff have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. If we have discussions or meetings with you to discuss aspects of your child's well-being, medical needs, friendship issues, any bereavement, social and emotional issues, Special Educational Needs or anything that you would like support with, we will keep a record of this information and the actions that we have taken to support your child and you as a family. All information is stored securely.

If you are worried about the safety or welfare of any young person, at home or at school, please ensure you report your concerns to Mrs Mann (our school Designated Safeguarding Lead). If we have a concern about the welfare of a child, we will always act in the best interests of the child. Please see the flowchart on the next page for the school's responsibilities (this is taken from the Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance).

Where there are significant immediate concerns about the safety of a child, **you should contact the police on 999**. Everyone has a responsibility to refer a child when it is believed or suspected that a child:

- Has suffered significant harm and /or;
- Is likely to suffer significant harm and/or;
- Has developmental and welfare needs which are likely only to be met through provision of family support services (with agreement of the child's parent).

If you believe the situation is urgent but does not require the police, please call **0300 131 2 131** to make a telephone contact. Should your call be outside of business hours (Monday – Friday / 9am-5pm) please still call **0300 131 2 131** to speak to the Emergency Duty Team.

There are a number of resources to support parents and carers around a range of aspects of safeguarding which can be found here:
<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/>



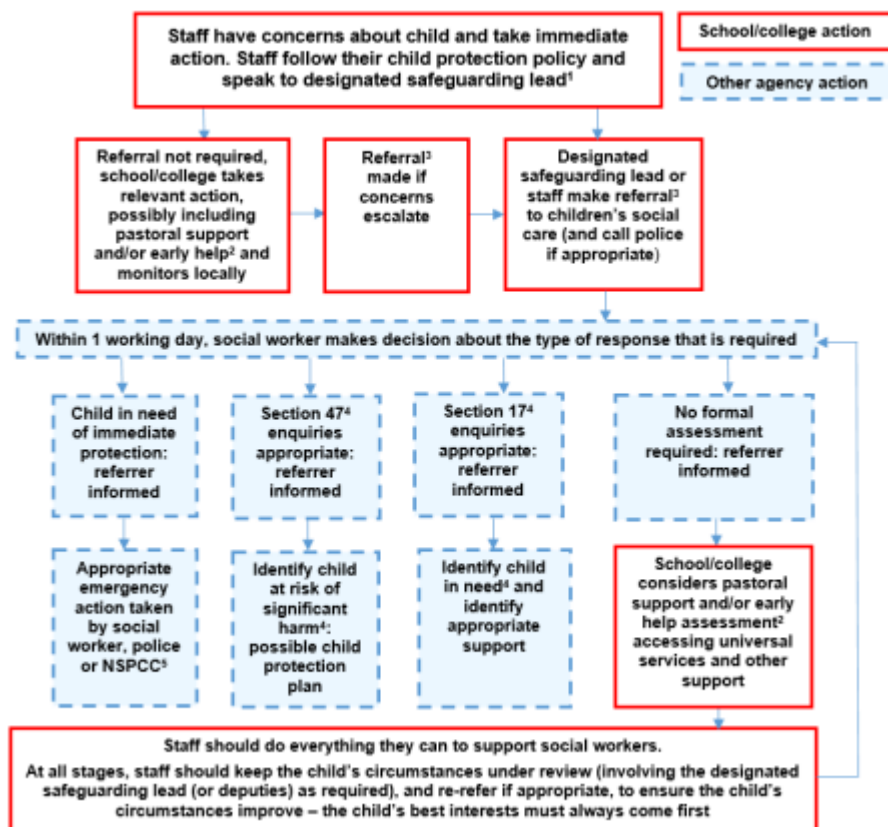
As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything with us, please do not hesitate to contact us at either school. More information can also be found on our school website: <http://fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/>

Thank you for your continued support.

M R Mann

Mrs Marie Mann
Executive Headteacher

Actions where there are concerns about a child



1 In cases which also involve a concern or an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part Four of this guidance.

2 Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children provides detailed guidance on the early help process. 3 Referrals should follow the process set out in the local threshold document and local protocol for assessment. Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children. 4 Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Children in need may be assessed under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare. Full details are in Chapter one of Working Together to Safeguard Children. 5 This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).