

# Rodmersham School

## Child Protection Information Leaflet



Your Child Protection  
Officers are:

**Nicola McMullon**

Head Teacher

**Leyla Gambell**

Senior Teacher

**Antony Brooks**

Governor

It is EVERYONE's  
responsibility to  
ensure that the  
children in our care  
are kept safe from  
harm.

Their well-being and  
safety is paramount.



### The Four R's

Recognise

Respond

Record

Refer

### Abusers will often be:

- ✗ In a position of trust, leadership
- ✗ Good at their job
- ✗ Able to win respect, affection, or fear from colleagues
- ✗ Charismatic
- ✗ Articulate
- ✗ Domineering, bullies
- ✗ Caring
- ✗ Dutiful, over-helpful
- ✗ **Manipulative**
- ✗ Distorted in their thinking.



### Physical Abuse

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.

### Signs and Symptoms of Physical Abuse

Physical injuries, such as cuts, bruises, fractures, unexplained or unusual injuries, improbable excuses, reluctance or refusal to explain injuries, reluctance to change clothing for games or PE, fear of physical contact, fear of suspected abuser being contacted.

### Emotional Abuse

This is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

### Signs and Symptoms of Emotional Abuse

Feeling depressed, withdrawal from social interaction, low self-esteem, isolation from friends and family, fearfulness, increased anxiety, feeling of shame / guilt, mood changes, not trusting others, extreme dependence on others, telling lies, aggressive behaviour, substance misuse

### Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

### Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse

Frequent need to urinate / urinary tract infections, age-inappropriate sexual knowledge, language, behaviours, regressive behaviours such as thumb sucking, needing previously discarded cuddly toys, loss of appetite or compulsive eating, becoming withdrawn, isolated, inability to focus, reluctance to go home, bed-wetting, drawing sexually explicit pictures, trying to be 'ultra good', over-reacting to criticism

### Neglect

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 involve failure to: Provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, protect child from physical harm or danger (including exposure to domestic abuse

### Signs and Symptoms of Neglect

Constant hunger, emaciation, compulsive scavenging, poor personal hygiene, constant tiredness, clothing poor, dirty, inappropriate for weather, untreated medical problems, poor social relationships, destructive tendencies

## If a child discloses an incident to you.....

### Do:

Listen carefully and take it seriously

Stay calm, however shocked you may be

Reassure the person

Explain what you will do next

Report it urgently to the Designated Senior Person

In the absence of Designated Person or Head, take immediate steps to protect the child or individual if necessary

Record the disclosure fully, in accordance with the school's policy.

### Don't:

Ask leading questions – avoid 'who, what, when, where' questions

Try to obtain more information by 'interviewing' people before taking advice

Appear shocked or angry

Make judgements

Promise anything you can't deliver, including keeping secrets

Confront or question an alleged abuser

Share the disclosure with another member of staff