**Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy 2024**

**Introduction and Ethos**

* Teamtheme Kent recognises our statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. Safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility and all those directly connected (staff, volunteers, governors, leaders, parents, families and learners) are an important part of the wider safeguarding system for children and have an essential role to play in making this community safe and secure.
* Staff working with children at Teamtheme Kent are advised to maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ where safeguarding is concerned.
* Teamtheme Kent believes that the best interests of children always come first. All children (defined as those up to the age of 18) have a right to be heard and to have their wishes and feelings taken into account and all children regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.
* Teamtheme Kent recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment within Teamtheme Kent that will help children to be safe and feel safe. Our children are respected and encourage to talk openly. All our staff understand safe professional practice and adhere to our safeguarding policies.
* Our core safeguarding principles are:
  + **Prevention**
    - positive, supportive, safe culture, curriculum and pastoral opportunities for children, safer recruitment procedures.
  + **Protection**
    - following the agreed procedures, ensuring all staff are trained and supported to recognise and respond appropriately and sensitively to safeguarding concerns.
  + **Support**
    - for all learners, parents and staff, and where appropriate specific interventions are required for those who may be at risk of harm.
  + **Working with parents and other agencies**
    - to ensure timely, appropriate communications and actions are undertaken when safeguarding concerns arise.
* Teamtheme Kent expects that if any member of our community has a safeguarding concern about any child or adult, they should act and act immediately.
* This policy is implemented in accordance with our compliance with the statutory guidance from the Department for Education, ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ 2024 (KCSIE) which requires individual schools and colleges to have an effective child protection policy.
* The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff, including and governors, temporary or third-party agency staff and volunteers) and are consistent with those outlined within KCSIE 2024.

**Policy Context**

* This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and related guidance. This includes:
  + DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (KCSIE)
  + Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (WTSC)
  + Ofsted: Education Inspection Framework’ 2019
  + Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families 2000)
  + Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures (Online)
  + Early Years and Foundation Stage Framework 2017 (EYFS)
  + The Education Act 2002
  + The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
  + The Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015
* Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires governing bodies, local education authorities and further education institutions to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children who are pupils at a school, or who are students under 18 years of age. Such arrangements will have to have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
* The way Teamtheme Kent currently operating in response to coronavirus (Covid-19), however, our safeguarding principles in accordance with KCSIE 2020 and related government guidance, remain the same. We will continue to follow government guidance and will amend this policy, as necessary.
* We acknowledge that some learners will return in September 2020 having been exposed to a range of adversity and trauma including bereavement, anxiety and in some cases increased welfare and safeguarding risks. We will work with local services (such as health and the local authority) to ensure necessary services and support are in place to support learners.

**Definition of Safeguarding**

* In line with KCSIE 2020, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:
  + protecting children from maltreatment;
  + preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development;
  + ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
  + taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
* Teamtheme Kent acknowledges that safeguarding includes a wide range of specific issues including (but not limited to):
* Abuse and neglect
* Bullying (including cyberbullying)
* Children with family members in prison
* Children Missing Education (CME)
* Child missing from home or care
* Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
* Child Criminal Exploitation
* Contextual Safeguarding (Risks outside the family home)
* County Lines
* Domestic abuse
* Drugs and alcohol misuse
* Fabricated or induced illness
* Faith abuse
* Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
* Forced marriage
* Gangs and youth violence
* Gender based abuse and violence against women and girls
* Hate
* Homelessness
* Honour based abuse
* Human trafficking and modern slavery
* Mental health
* Missing children and adults
* Online safety
* Peer on peer abuse
* Preventing radicalisation and extremism
* Private fostering
* Relationship abuse
* Serious Violence
* Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
* Upskirting
* Youth produced sexual imagery or “Sexting”

(Also see Annex A within ‘Keeping children safe in education’ 2020)

**Related Safeguarding Policies**

* This policy is one of a series integrated safeguarding portfolio and should be read and actioned in conjunction with the policies as listed below:
  + Behaviour management, linked to the use of physical intervention
  + Searching, screening and confiscation
  + Online Safety; Social media and Mobile technology
  + Anti-Bullying
  + Data protection and Information sharing
  + Image use
  + Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)
  + Personal and intimate care
  + Health and safety
  + Attendance
  + Risk assessments
  + First aid and accidents
  + Managing allegations against staff
  + Staff behaviour policy, including Acceptable Use of Technology Policies (AUP)
  + Safer recruitment
  + Whistleblowing

**Policy Compliance, Monitoring and Review**

* Teamtheme Kent will review this policy at least annually. The policy will be revised following any national or local policy updates, any local child protection concerns and/or any changes to our procedures.
* All staff (including temporary staff and volunteers) will be provided with a copy of this policy.
* The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure regular reporting on safeguarding activity and systems to the governing body. The governing body will not receive details of individual learner situations or identifying features of families as part of their oversight responsibility.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

* Teamtheme Kent has appointed Gary Shackleford and Andrew Johnston as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
* **It is the role of the DSL to:**
  + Act as the central contact point for all staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns
  + Maintain a confidential recording system for safeguarding and child protection concerns
  + Coordinate safeguarding action for individual children
  + Liaise with other agencies and professionals in line with KCSIE 2020 and WTSC 2018
  + Ensure that locally established procedures as put in place by the three safeguarding partners (KSCMP), including referrals, are followed, as necessary.
  + Represent, or ensure the Teamtheme Kent is appropriately represented at multi-agency safeguarding meetings (including Child Protection conferences)
  + Manage and monitor the Teamtheme Kent role in any multi-agency plan for a child.
  + Be available during term time (during school hours) for staff in the school to discuss any safeguarding concerns.
  + help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children, including children with a social worker, are experiencing, or have experienced, with teachers and leadership staff.
  + Ensure adequate and appropriate DSL cover arrangements fin response to any closures and out of hours and/or out of term activities.
  + Ensure all staff access appropriate safeguarding training and relevant updates in line with the recommendations within KCSIE (2020)

**Members of Staff**

**All members of staff have a responsibility to:**

* Provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
* Be prepared to identify children who may benefit from early help.
* Understand the early help process and their role in it.
* Understand their school safeguarding policies and systems.
* Undertake regular and appropriate training which is regularly updated.
* Be aware of the process of making referrals to children’s social care and statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989.
* Know what to do if a child tells them that he or she is being abused or neglected and understand the impact abuse and neglect can have upon a child.
* Be able to identify and act upon indicators that children are, or at risk of developing mental health issues.
* Know how to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality.
* Be aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect so that they can identify cases of children who may need help or protection.

**Children and Young People**

**Children and young people have a right** **to:**

* Feel safe, be listened to, and have their wishes and feelings taken into account.
* Contribute to the development of Teamtheme Kent safeguarding policies.
* Receive help from a trusted adult.
* Learn how to keep themselves safe, including online.

**Parents/carers have a responsibility to:**

* Understand and adhere the relevant company policies and procedures.
* Talk to their children about safeguarding issues with their children and support them in their safeguarding approaches.
* Identify behaviours which could indicate that their child is at risk of harm including online and seek help and support from the school or other agencies.

**Recognising Indicators of Abuse and Neglect**

* All staff are made aware of the definitions and indicators of abuse and neglect as identified by Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020. This is outlined locally within the [Kent Support Levels Guidance](https://www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/kent-support-levels-guidance).
* Teamtheme Kent recognises that when assessing whether a child may be suffering actual or potential harm there are four categories of abuse:
  + Physical abuse
  + Sexual abuse
  + Emotional abuse
  + Neglect
* All members of staff are expected to be aware of and follow this approach if they are concerned about a child:



‘What to do if you are worried a child is being abused’ 2015

* Members of staff are aware that concerns may arise in many different contexts and can vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness. The indicators of child abuse and neglect can vary from child to child. Children develop and mature at different rates, so what appears to be worrying behavior for a younger child might be normal for an older child.
* It is important to recognise that indicators of abuse and neglect do not automatically mean a child is being abused however all concerns should be taken seriously and explored by the DSL on a case by case basis.
* Parental behaviors’ may also indicate child abuse or neglect, so staff should also be alert to parent-child interactions or concerning parental behaviors; this could include parents who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol or if there is a sudden change in their mental health.
* Safeguarding incidents and/or behaviors can be associated with factors outside the setting and/or can occur between children offsite. Children can be are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.
* By understanding the indicators or abuse and neglect, we can respond to problems as early as possible and provide the right support and services for the child and their family.

**Child Protection Procedures**

* Teamtheme Kent recognises that some children have additional or complex needs and may require access to intensive or specialist services to support them.
* Teamtheme Kent adheres to the Kent Safeguarding Children multi-agency partnership procedures (KSCMP). The full KSCMP procedures and additional guidance relating to specific safeguarding issues can be found on their website: <https://www.kscmp.org.uk/>
* All staff are aware of the process for making request for support referrals for statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989, along with the role they might be expected to play in such assessments.
* Teamtheme Kent is an [Operation Encompass School](https://www.operationencompass.org/). This means we work in partnership with Kent Police to provide support to children experiencing domestic abuse.
* Teamtheme Kent recognise that in situations where there are immediate child protection concerns identified in line with Support Level Guidance, it is NOT to investigate as a single agency but to act in line with KSCMP guidance which may involve multi-agency decision making**.**
* If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a request for support should be made immediately to Integrated Children’s Services (Front Door) and/or the police in line with KSCMP procedures.
* The DSL may seek advice or guidance from their Area Education Safeguarding Advisor from the Education Safeguarding Service before deciding next steps. They may also seek advice or guidance from a social worker at the Front Door service who are the first point of contact for Integrated Children’s Services (ICS).
* In the event of a request for support to the Front Door being necessary, parents/carers will be informed and consent to this will be sought by the DSL in line with guidance provided by KSCMP.
  + Parents/carers will be informed unless there is a valid reason not to do so, for example, if to do so would put a child at risk of harm or would undermine a criminal investigation.
* If the DSL is not immediately available to discuss an urgent concern, staff can seek advice from the Deputy DSL. They may also seek advice from the Education Safeguarding Service or via consultation with a social worker from the Front Door. If anyone other than the DSL makes a referral to external services, they will inform the DSL as soon as possible.
* The DSL will keep all early help cases under constant review and consideration will be given to a request for support to the Front Door if the situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse.
* If, after a request for support or any other planned external intervention, a child’s situation does not appear to be improving, the DSL will consider following [KSCMP escalation procedures](https://www.proceduresonline.com/kentandmedway/chapters/p_resolution.html) to ensure their concerns have been addressed and, most importantly, that the child’s situation improves. DSLs may request support with this via the Education Safeguarding Service.

**Record Keeping**

* All safeguarding concerns, discussions and decisions, and reasons for those decisions, will be recorded in writing on the Teamtheme Kent safeguarding system My Concern and will without delay notify the DSL. A body map will be completed if injuries have been observed.
  + If members of staff are in any doubt about recording requirements, they should discuss their concerns with the DSL.
* Records will be completed as soon as possible after the incident/event, using the child’s words and will be signed and dated by the member of staff. If there is an immediate concern the member of staff should consult with a DSL before completing the form as reporting urgent concerns takes priority.
* Safeguarding records are kept for individual children and are maintained separately from all other records relating to the child in the setting. Safeguarding records are kept in accordance with data protection legislation and are retained centrally and securely by the DSL. Safeguarding records are shared with staff on a ‘need to know’ basis only.

**Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

* Teamtheme Kent recognises our duty to share relevant information with appropriate agencies in matters relating to child protection at the earliest opportunity as per statutory guidance outlined within KCSIE 2020.

* All staff must be aware that they cannot promise confidentiality in situations which might compromise a child’s safety or wellbeing.
* The DSL will disclose information about a learner on a ‘need to know’ basis.
* All members of staff must be aware that whilst they have duties to keep any information confidential, they also have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies to safeguard children.
* Teamtheme Kent has an appropriately trained Data Protection Officer (DPO) as required by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) to ensure that our company is complaint with all matters relating to confidentiality and information sharing requirements.
* The Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children (KCSIE 2020).
* DfE Guidance on Information Sharing (July 2018) provides further detail.

**Complaints**

* Teamtheme Kent has a Complaints Procedure available to parents, learners and members of staff and visitors who wish to report concerns. This can be found on our website.
* All reported concerns will be taken seriously and considered within the relevant and appropriate process. Anything that constitutes an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer will be dealt with under the specific Procedures for Managing Allegations against Staff policy**.**

**Staff Induction, Awareness and Training**

* All members of staff have been provided with a copy of part one of ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (2020) which covers safeguarding information for all staff.
* The DSL will ensure that all new staff and volunteers receive child protection training to ensure they are aware of the company internal safeguarding processes as part of their induction.

**Safer Working Practice**

* All members of staff are required to work within our clear guidelines on safer working practice as outlined in the code of conduct.
* Staff will be made aware of Teamtheme Kent behaviour management and physical intervention policies*,* and any physical interventions/use of reasonable force must be in line with agreed policy and procedures and national guidance.
* All staff will be made aware of the professional risks associated with the use of social media and electronic communication (such as email, mobile phones, texting, social networking). Staff will adhere to relevant company policies including staff behavior policy, Acceptable Use Policies, and Social Media.

**Safer Recruitment**

* Teamtheme Kent is committed to ensure that develop a safe culture and that all steps are taken to recruit staff and volunteers who are safe to work with our learners and staff.
* Teamtheme Kent will follow relevant guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (Section 3 ‘Safer Recruitment’) and from The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS):
* The governing body will ensure that there is at least one of the persons who conducts an interview has completed safer recruitment training.
* Teamtheme Kent are committed to supporting the statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the application of the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 and related obligations under the Childcare Act 2006 in schools.
* We advise all staff to disclose any reason that may affect their suitability to work with children including convictions, cautions, court orders, cautions, reprimands and warnings.
* We will ensure that all staff and volunteers have read the staff behaviour policy/code of conduct and understand that their behaviour and practice must be in line with it.

**Allegations Against Members of Staff and Volunteers**

* Teamtheme Kent recognises that it is possible for any member of staff and visitors to behave in a way that:
  + Indicates they have harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
  + Means they have committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
  + behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; or
  + behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.
* All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in the setting safeguarding regime.
* Allegations should be referred immediately to the Gary Shackleford or Andy Johnston who will contact the [Local Authority Designated Officer](https://www.kscmp.org.uk/procedures/local-authority-designated-officer-lado) (LADO) to agree further action to be taken in respect of the child and staff member.
* In the event of allegations of abuse being made against the Gary Shackleford or Andy Johnston, staff are advised that allegations should be reported to the chair of governors who will contact the LADO.
* All staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and such concerns will always be taken seriously by the leadership team.
* All members of staff are made aware of the Teamtheme Kent Whistleblowing procedure (in the Staff Handbook). It is a disciplinary offence not to report concerns about the conduct of a colleague that could place a child at risk.
* Staff can access the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline if they do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally.
  + Staff can call 0800 028 0285 (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday to Friday) or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).
* Teamtheme Kent has a legal duty to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) anyone who has harmed, or poses a risk of harm, to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has committed one of a number of listed offences, and who has been removed from working (paid or unpaid) in regulated activity, or would have been removed had they not left. The DBS will consider whether to bar the person.
  + If these circumstances arise in relation to a member of staff at our company, a referral will be made as soon as possible after the resignation or removal of the individual in accordance with advice from the LADO.

1. **Safeguarding Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

* Teamtheme Kent recognise acknowledges that children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges as they may have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse. The DSL will work closely with the SENDco (Miss Whiteing) to plan support as required.
* Teamtheme Kent recognise will ensure that children with SEN and disabilities, specifically those with communication difficulties will be supported to ensure that their voice is heard and acted upon.
* Members of staff are encouraged to be aware that children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionally impacted by safeguarding concerns, such as bullying and exploitation.
* All members of staff will be encouraged to appropriately explore possible indicators of abuse such as behaviour/mood change or injuries and not to assume that they are related to the child’s disability and be aware that children with SEN and disabilities may not always outwardly display indicators of abuse. To address these additional challenges, our setting will always consider extra pastoral support for children with SEN and disabilities.

1. **Peer on Peer Abuse**

* All members of staff at Teamtheme Kent recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Teamtheme Kent believes that abuse is abuse and it will never be tolerated. All victims will be taken seriously and offered appropriate support, regardless of where the abuse takes place.
* Teamtheme Kent recognise recognises that peer on peer abuse can take many forms, including but not limited to:
  + bullying (including cyberbullying)
  + physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
  + sexual violence and sexual harassment
  + ‘upskirting’, which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
  + sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery
  + initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.
* Teamtheme Kent recognise recognises youth produced sexual imagery (also known as “sexting”) as a safeguarding issue; all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by the DSL (or deputy).
  + We will follow the advice as set out in the non-statutory UKCIS guidance: [‘Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’](https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis) and the local [KSCMP](http://www.kscb.org.uk/guidance/online-safety) guidance: “Responding to youth produced sexual imagery”.
* When responding to concerns relating to child on child sexual violence or harassment, Teamtheme Kent will follow guidance outlined in part five of KCSIE 2020 and ‘[Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children in Schools and Colleges’](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges).
* All allegations of peer on peer abuse will be recorded, investigated, and dealt with in line with associated our policies, including child protection, anti-bullying and behaviour.
* Alleged victims, perpetrators and any other child affected by peer on peer abuse will be supported by:
  + **providing pastoral support, working with parents/carers, and in cases of sexual assault, informing the police and/or Front Door*.***

**Mental Health**

* All staff will be made aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Staff are aware of how children’s experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.
* Staff are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.
* If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken by speaking to the DSL or a deputy.

**Local Support**

* All members of staff at Teamtheme Kent are made aware of local support available.
  + **Contact details for Area Safeguarding Advisor (Education Safeguarding Service)**
    - East Kent: Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3SS  
      03000 41 85 03
  + **Contact details for Online Safety in the Education Safeguarding Service**
    - **03000 415797**
    - [esafetyofficer@theeducationpeople.org](mailto:esafetyofficer@theeducationpeople.org) **(non-urgent issues only)**
  + **Contact details for the LADO**
    - **Telephone: 03000 410888**
    - Email: [kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk)
  + **Integrated Children’s Services** 
    - Front door: 03000 411111
    - Out of Hours Number: 03000 419191

* + **Kent Police**
    - 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm
  + **Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP)**
    - [kscmp@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kscmp@kent.gov.uk)
    - 03000 421126
  + **Adult Safeguarding**
    - Adult Social Care via 03000 41 61 61 (text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61) or email [social.services@kent.gov.uk](mailto:social.services@kent.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1: Categories of Abuse**

**All staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another.**

**Abuse:** a form of maltreatment of 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. It should be noted that abuse can be carried out both on and offline and be perpetrated by men, women and children.

**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. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. 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). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Signs that MAY INDICATE Sexual Abuse**

* Sudden changes in behaviour and performance
* Displays of affection which are sexual and age inappropriate
* Self-harm, self-mutilation or attempts at suicide
* Alluding to secrets which they cannot reveal
* Tendency to cling or need constant reassurance
* Regression to younger behaviour for example thumb sucking, playing with discarded toys, acting like a baby
* Distrust of familiar adults e.g. anxiety of being left with relatives, a childminder or lodger
* Unexplained gifts or money
* Depression and withdrawal
* Fear of undressing for PE
* Sexually transmitted disease
* Fire setting

**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.

**Signs that MAY INDICATE physical abuse**

* Bruises and abrasions around the face
* Damage or injury around the mouth
* Bi-lateral injuries such as two bruised eyes
* Bruising to soft area of the face such as the cheeks
* Fingertip bruising to the front or back of torso
* Bite marks
* Burns or scalds (unusual patterns and spread of injuries)
* Deep contact burns such as cigarette burns
* Injuries suggesting beatings (strap marks, welts)
* Covering arms and legs even when hot
* Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts.
* Injuries need to be accounted for. Inadequate, inconsistent or excessively plausible explanations or a delay in seeking treatment should signal concern.

**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.

**Signs that MAY INDICATE emotional abuse**

* Over reaction to mistakes
* Lack of self-confidence/esteem
* Sudden speech disorders
* Self-harming
* Eating Disorders
* Extremes of passivity and/or aggression
* Compulsive stealing
* Drug, alcohol, solvent abuse
* Fear of parents being contacted
* Unwillingness or inability to play
* Excessive need for approval, attention and affection

**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 that MAY INDICATE neglect.**

* Constant hunger
* Poor personal hygiene
* Constant tiredness
* Inadequate clothing
* Frequent lateness or non-attendance
* Untreated medical problems
* Poor relationship with peers
* Compulsive stealing and scavenging
* Rocking, hair twisting and thumb sucking
* Running away
* Loss of weight or being constantly underweight
* Low self esteem