

Reporting safeguarding concerns

Child-on-child abuse

We all have a duty to keep people safe. It is vital that you recognise when something might indicate a concern and that you then respond to those concerns.

You should aim to create an effective culture of safeguarding where children feel able to share their concerns and where they know that they will be listened to and taken seriously.


When responding to a disclosure...

Do:

- Remain calm and level-headed
- Reassure the child
- Ask open-ended questions to clarify the child's version of events
- Let them know that you are taking what they say seriously
- Tell them what will happen next
- Make a note of exactly what they have told you as soon as possible with dates and times
- Share the concern following procedure

Don't:

- Promise to keep secrets
- Rush the child's account
- Ask leading questions or try to interview the child
- Make assumptions
- Show that you are upset or angry
- Show disbelief or dismiss them
- Talk negatively about the potential abuser

 If you have any concerns about a child, or if the child discloses information to you, then you should report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead straight away.