

Child Protection Officers

All schools have Child Protection Officers (CPO) appointed to be responsible for child protection matters and specially trained for the task.

In Perth High School the trained staff are:

Balmanno: Mrs M Carcary



Elcho: Mrs C Ross



Huntingtower: Mrs G Shenton



Kinfauns: Mr G Kirk



Pitheavlis: Mrs H Taylor



Depute Headteacher
Mr P Cunningham

Useful Contact Numbers

Perth & Kinross Child
Protection Duty Team
01738 476768

Childline
0800 1111



www.pkc.gov.uk

Child Protection



*Information
for Parents*

Definition of Child Protection

All young people have the right to be cared for; protected from harm and abuse; and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights are respected and their needs met. Young people should get help when they need it, and their welfare is always paramount.

To this end 'child protection' means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect, or indeed taking action if a child is believed to be at risk of harm from abuse or neglect

Child abuse is the 'mistreatment or neglect of a child resulting in harm or injury. This may occur physically, emotionally, sexually; through acts of omission; through witnessing pornography, sexual acts or violence'

Neglect is 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.

Procedures

If a member of staff suspects a young person may be at risk from abuse or neglect the following procedures are put into action:

- 1 The member of staff will inform the child protection officer (the young person's Guidance Teacher)
- 2 A decision will be made to continue to monitor the situation or to take action. This will depend on the nature of the concern and the evidence.
- 3 The Child Protection Officer may contact the Social Work Duty Officer in Perth for further advice
- 4 The Social Work Department and/or the young person's school may contact the young person's home

Social Work and the school will work closely with the young person and their family to help him/her cope with the situation

Confidentiality

Problems can arise when a young person consults a member of staff about a problem and does not want that information to be shared with parents/carer. They may be embarrassed, the parents/carer may be the abuser or they may fear family break up as a result of their allegations, etc.

Whilst staff try to encourage young people to share information with their parents, there may be circumstances in which any pressure to pass the information on could result in the young person keeping the problem to him or herself, or not sharing concerns in the future.

Although we do not promise complete confidentiality, we always try to act in the best interests of the child, to encourage the fullest possible involvement and consultation with parents.

