



Marown School - Child Protection Policy

UNCRC: Article 19: ensure children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

1 Rationale

1.1 The health, safety and welfare of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in Marown School. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school.

1.2 Child abuse takes a variety of forms:

- Physical abuse involves the hitting, shaking or other treatment of a child that can cause actual bodily harm.
- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child into sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware what is happening. This includes non-contact situations, such as showing children pornography.
- Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of children, such as frightening them, or putting them in positions of danger. It is also an abuse to convey to children the feeling that they are worthless or unloved.
- Children are abused also if they are neglected. This could involve failure to provide proper food and warmth, but it might also be failure to see to the emotional well-being of the child.

1.3 In our school, we respect and nurture our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.

1.4 We recognise that abuse and neglect can result in underachievement. We strive to ensure that all our children make good educational progress.

1.5 Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children, and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to them.

1.6 In our school we work together to keep our children and young people safe and protected from harm. We follow the six child protection values of: Respect, Caring, Listening, Curiosity, Fairness, Professionalism.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 Our aims are:

- to provide a safe environment for children to learn in;
- to establish what actions the school can take to ensure that children remain safe, at home as well as at school;
- to raise the awareness of all staff to these issues, and to define their roles and responsibilities in reporting possible cases of abuse;
- to identify children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm;
- to ensure effective communication between all staff on child protection issues;
- to set down the correct procedures for those who encounter any issue of child protection.

This policy will support Marown School aims to:

1. Eliminate discrimination
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it

Protected characteristics:

- Sex
- Race (colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins)
- Disability (broader than DDA definition)
- Religion or belief (religious or philosophical belief or lack of same)
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment (undergoing, undergone or is proposing to undergo process of reassigning their sex)
- Pregnancy or maternity
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Age

3 Staff responsibilities

3.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure all of the following:

- that the governing body adopts appropriate policies and procedures to safeguard children in the school;
- that these policies are implemented by all staff;
- that sufficient resources and time are allocated for staff to carry out their responsibilities effectively;

that all staff and adult helpers in the school are able to voice their concern if they feel that a child is vulnerable, or that there are any particular practices that are unsafe.

Child Protection & Safeguarding

The IOM Government, the Department for Education Sport & Culture, and schools are under a legal and moral obligation to keep our children as safe as reasonably possible. To this end, various 'safe systems' are in place at Marown School.

The Headteacher (Ian Longshaw) is the designated Child Protection Officer

- All staff are trained in Level 2 child protection principles every two years in house or by training provided by Isle of Man Safeguarding Board.
- The child protection procedures are known by all staff who may need to notify someone in the event of the child protection officer's absence: Deputy Headteacher, TLR posts in order of seniority
- As a member of the public, any person may make a Social Services referral, but as a member of staff these referrals MUST go via the Child Protection Officer (Headteacher)
- Education Officers or Advisers are available 24 hours in an emergency

- Inter-agency liaison routinely includes Police and Manx Care (Social Services).
- A Child Protection register is kept securely
- Items which parents may have access to are kept in the pupil records files
- Pupil record files are highlighted to show Child Protection concerns, Manx Care/ Social Services involvement or other social, health, domestic or other concerns, which are shared sensitively and confidentially with colleagues and parents as appropriate. These files are kept securely in school.
- Review meetings, case conferences, child protection committees, are usually attended by the schools Child Protection Officer or designated staff representative
- Child abuse may be one of four types, or a combination of **Physical Abuse; Emotional Abuse; Sexual Abuse; Neglect**
- Staff are trained to be aware of initial signs of abuse. Agency specialists are involved as appropriate
- Disclosures by children are always taken seriously and reported up to Child Protection officer
- Staff cannot give undertakings of confidentiality to pupils in cases of suspected or actual child abuse
- Monthly attendance and welfare reports are sent to the Education Department

4 Employment and recruitment

4.1 We will do all we can to ensure that all those working with children in our school are suitable people. This involves scrutinizing applicants, verifying their identity and obtaining references, as well as the mandatory DBS checks.

5 Procedure to be followed if an adult has concerns about a child

5.1 Any action taken by the named Child Protection Officer when dealing with an issue of child protection must be in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board guidelines.

5.2 All adults in our school share responsibility for keeping our children safe. We may on occasion report concerns which, on investigation, prove unfounded.

5.3 If teachers suspect that a child in their class may be a victim of abuse, they should not try to investigate, but should immediately inform the Child Protection Officer about their concerns. Abuse can be of a physical, sexual or emotional nature. It can also be the result of neglect. Staff must not keep to themselves any information about abuse that a child gives them; they are required to pass this information on.

5.4 If a child alleges abuse and is considered to be at risk of significant harm, the school will make a referral to Manx Care (Social Services) without first informing parents. However, in **all** other circumstances parents will be informed first.

5.5 If a referral is made, a case conference will be held. Case conferences offer the opportunity to share information and formulate a plan of action. A school representative is expected to attend and participate in all case conferences and meetings held.

6 Staff training

6.1 All adults in the school receive regular training to raise their awareness of abuse, and to improve their knowledge of the child protection procedures that have been agreed locally.

7 Confidentiality

7.1 We regard all information relating to individual child protection issues as confidential, and we treat it accordingly. We pass information on to appropriate persons only.

8 Other school policies

8.1 Marown's Child Protection policy is a stand alone policy but it is reflected in our other policies too. In particular:

Anti-Bullying policy

Safeguarding policy

Behaviour policy

Equal opportunities policy

9 Monitoring and review

9.1 The governing body will ensure that the school has a senior member of staff designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection issues.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy was first produced and approved by the governors spring term 2013. It has been updated and reviewed each academic year.

- Reviewed and revised September 2023

- Next scheduled review September 2024

I.Longshaw