

WHEN AND WHAT MIGHT I BE CONCERNED ABOUT?

At any time you may be concerned about information which suggests a child is being neglected or experiencing physical, emotional or sexual harm.

You may observe physical signs, notice changes in the child's behaviour or presentation, pick up signs of emotional distress or have a child disclose a harmful experience to you.

Harm to a child can be caused by:

- * A parent/carer
- * A family member/friend
- * Another child
- * A member of staff/volunteer

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES THAT THEY ARE BEING HARMED?

1. Listen

Listen carefully to what is being said to you, do not interrupt.

2. Reassure

Reassure the pupil that it is not their fault. Stress that it was the right thing to tell. Be calm, attentive and non judgemental. Do not promise to keep what is said a secret. Ask non leading questions (TED) to clarify if necessary:

- * Tell Me more...
- * Explain that to me...
- * Describe what happened...

Then follow the steps in the flowchart to the right. The information you have may not be enough on its own for a Child Protection referral, however it will help your DSL to make a decision about risk of harm to the child.

WHAT MUST I DO?

Recognise your concern



Respond Inform your DSL/Deputy DSL without delay (or Head Teacher/ Chair of Governors where appropriate)



Make a written record (using the child's own words), sign and date it.



Pass the record to the **DSL/Deputy DSL** (where appropriate)