






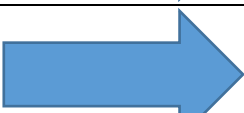





# Birches First School

*Believe, Grow, Succeed*



- **Do you have concerns about a child?**
- **Has a child made a disclosure to you?**

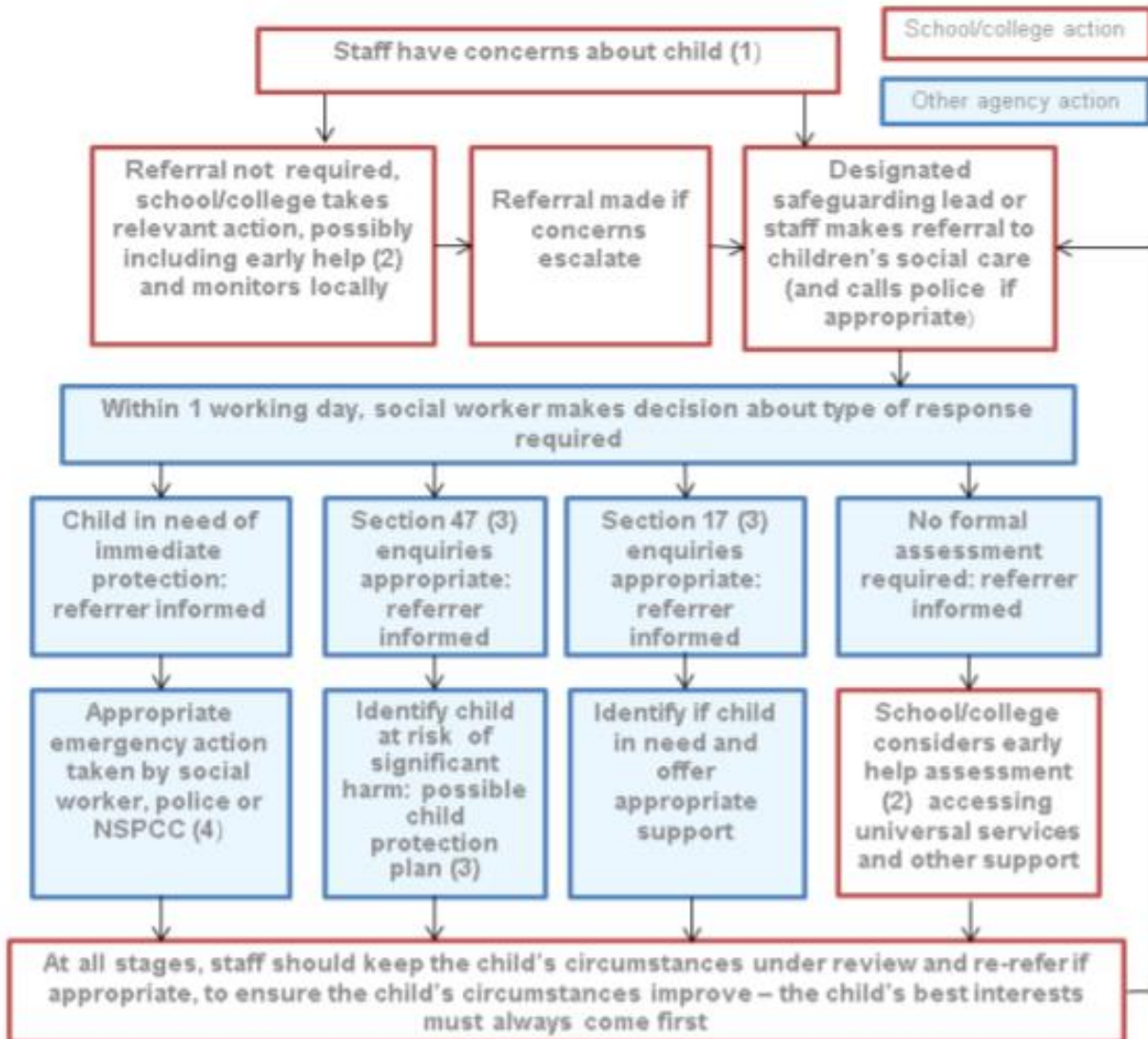
	Listen to what they are telling you – avoid displaying shock or disbelief.
	Reassure them but do not make any promises that you may not be able to keep (e.g. 'Everything will be alright now') Ensure that you do not promise confidentiality.
	Do not interrogate or ask leading questions, ask child to repeat to another member of staff or criticise the alleged perpetrator. Explain that you will have to tell the DSL.
	Do not take photos of any injuries or marks.
	Make a record of what is said – within an hour – include time, place and any observed non-verbal behaviour e.g. 'appears aggressive/fearful/anxious'.
	Record statements and observable things rather than interpretations or assumptions.
	Keep any notes or evidence (that the child may have written).
	Fill out a concern form and speak <b>immediately</b> to our DSL (JF/SV) or DDSL (JF/KC/CB) <b>PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE WILL PASS IT ON</b>
	Remember, safeguarding information is confidential and should not be shared with others unless for safeguarding purposes.

Thank you for helping to safeguard our children.



*Protect and safeguard the welfare of all our children.*

## Actions where there are concerns about a child



1. In cases which also involve an allegation of abuse against a staff member, see Part four of this guidance.
2. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life. Where a child would benefit from co-ordinated early help, an early help inter-agency assessment should be arranged. Chapter one of [Working together to safeguard children](#) provides detailed guidance on the early help process.
3. Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. This can include s17 assessments of children in need and s47 assessments of children at risk of significant harm. Full details are in Chapter one of [Working together to safeguard children](#)
4. This could include applying for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).

If you have a concern about the safety of a child contact **Staffordshire First Response** via the following address <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Care-for-children-and-families/Childprotection/First-Response.aspx> or by telephone; **08001313126**

Opening times: **Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm**

Outside of the hours above, on weekends or bank holidays, please contact the

**Emergency Duty Team** by phoning **0345 604 2886**

**Education Safeguarding Advisor (ESAS); Caroline Boote**

A dedicated telephone advice service for schools and colleges who are seeking advice and guidance in regards to Safeguarding of a **non-urgent** nature.

Telephone: **01785 895836** (direct) Email: [esas@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:esas@staffordshire.gov.uk)

(Mon to Thurs 8.30am to 5pm and Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm)