

The purpose of Rutlish School's safeguarding policy is to ensure every young person who is a registered student at our school is safe and protected from harm. This means we will always work to:

- Protect young people from maltreatment
- Prevent impairment of young people's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that young people grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Take action to enable all young people to have the best outcomes.
- Be alert to the fact that extremism and radicalisation is a safeguarding issue where a young person or young people may be at direct risk of harm
- Be aware of specific risks such as child sexual exploitation, domestic violence and female genital mutilation, sexual harassment or violence, county lines, online abuse, peer to peer abuse
- Undertake that role so as to enable young people at our school to have the best outcomes.

The school policy gives clear direction to staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expected behaviour and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at our school.

Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect young people from harm and supporting and promoting the welfare of all young people who are registered students at our school. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support. (KCSiE 2025)

The school may need to refer to an outside agency or seek other professional advice.

Merton MASH: 020 8545 4226 / 4227

(Out of hours: 020 8770 5000)

mash@merton.gov.uk / Police: 999 or 101

Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321

Handling Disclosures

School staff will:

Stay Calm

Listen carefully to what is said

Not promise to keep secrets - find an appropriate early opportunity to explain that it is likely that the information will need to be shared with others

Allow the child/young person to continue at their own pace

Ask questions for clarification only - always avoid asking questions that suggest a particular answer

Reassure the child/young person that they have done the right thing in telling you and that you believe them

Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared (a member of the Safeguarding Team)

Record in writing what was said, as soon as possible, using the child/young person's own words - note date, time and names mentioned, to whom the information was given and ensure that all records are **signed and dated**

Handling Concerns

Sometimes staff will become concerned about a child/young person's behaviour or injuries but the young person may not have said anything to suggest that they have been abused. Staff will:

- Be available and prepared to listen
- Not keep information to themselves
- Discuss concerns with a member of the safeguarding team
- Send a written record of their concerns to the safeguarding team
- Not rely on someone else to take action; refer their

SAFEGUARDING and CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES



INFORMATION LEAFLET

If you have a concern, please pass this to:

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms Doherty

Deputy DSL's

Mr Giles and Mrs Vandenberghe

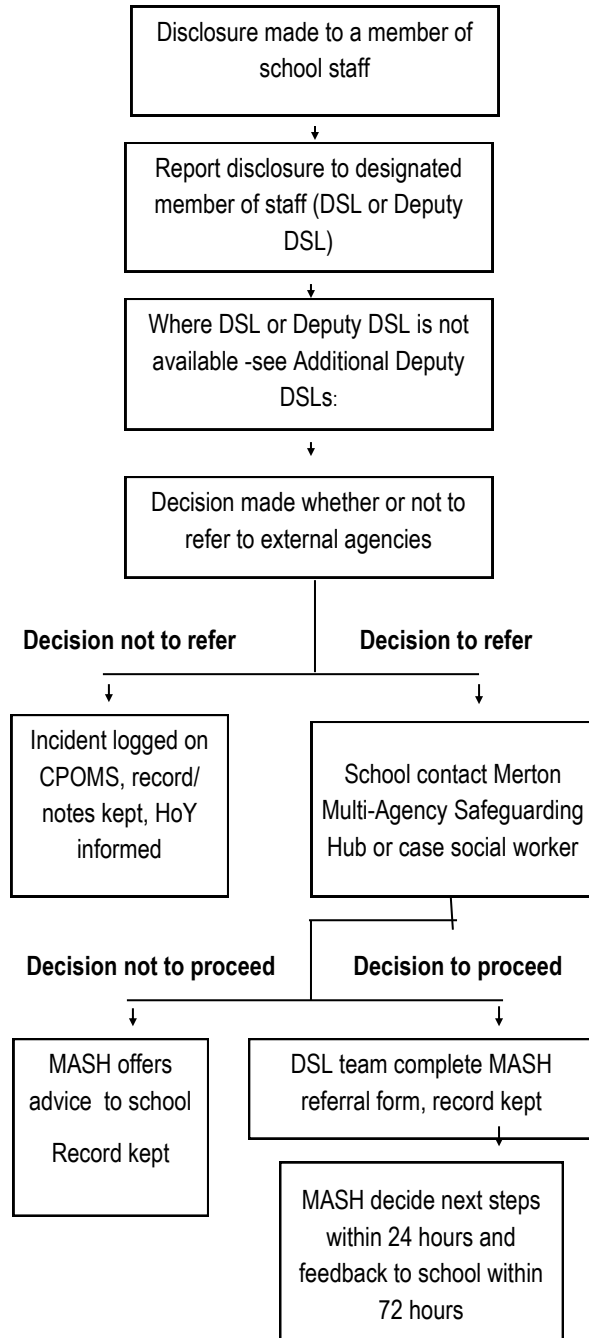
Additional DSL's

Mr Lightfoot and Ms Hyland

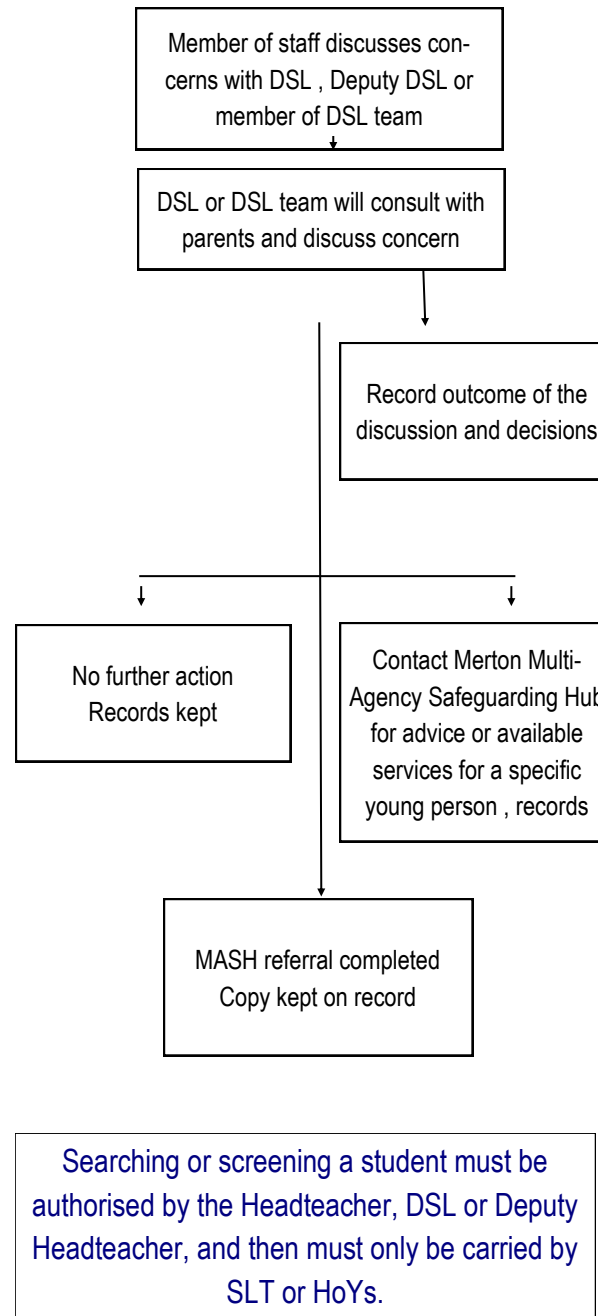
Headteacher: Ms Howarth



Action to be taken when a child or young person discloses, or a member of staff suspects that abuse has occurred outside school



When there is serious concerns about a child or young person's welfare but no specific evidence of abuse:



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Ms Doherty, Assistant Headteacher

If DSL is not available, please refer to:

Deputy DSL's

Mrs Vandenberghe, Head of Inclusion

Mr Giles, Deputy Headteacher

Additional DSL's

Ms Hyland, Assistant Headteacher

Mr Lightfoot, Assistant Headteacher

Ms Howarth, Headteacher

safeguarding@rutlish.merton.sch.uk

020 8542 1212

