

MILFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) POLICY



Vision Statement

Milford school sits at the heart of the community, where all involved strive for excellence. Each child is supported in their learning journey and the fulfilment of individual potential.

Care, share, respect and learn

Spring 2017

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Families in the UK are at increased risk of exposure to domestic violence. In over 90% of cases this abuse is aimed at women.
- 1.2 Schools in Derbyshire will be notified of incidents of DV by Call Derbyshire via the extranet (password protected). Schools must be aware of any resultant changes to parental responsibility and ensure controls are in place to protect the child. Often the recipient of DV does not report incidents, therefore all staff in schools need to look out for the following indicators:

2. Identifying Children at Risk

- 2.1 Children living in households where domestic violence is happening are identified as “at risk” of harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others. This would include witnessing domestic abuse. Children are individuals and may respond to witnessing abuse in different ways. Some of the effects may include:
 - They may become anxious or depressed.
 - They may have difficulty sleeping.
 - They may complain of physical symptoms such as tummy ache.
 - They may start to wet their bed.
 - They may behave as though they are much younger than they are.
 - They may have problems with school.
 - They may become aggressive or they may internalise their distress and withdraw from other people.
 - They may have a lowered sense of self-worth.
 - Older children may begin to play truant or start to use alcohol or drugs.
 - They may begin to self-harm by taking overdoses or cutting themselves.
- 2.2 Children may also feel angry, guilty, insecure, alone, frightened, powerless or confused. They may have ambivalent feelings towards both the abuser and the non-abusing parent.
- 2.3 If staff are concerned that a child may be experiencing domestic abuse they will follow the Derby and Derbyshire safeguarding children procedures.

3. Support for Children

- 3.1 Children will be supported in the following ways:
 - Support in nurture groups or 1:1 nurture.
 - Named member of staff to support the child.
 - Change to curriculum.
 - Provision Map – with defined targets and support.
 - Family worker/ Single Assessment process initiated.

- Multi agency team support.
- Gender issues discussed as part of PSHE, RE and in assemblies.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in Spring.

Date Spring 2017

Signed (Chair of Governors) **Gill Taylor**

Next review - Spring 2018

This policy should be read in conjunction with:-

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Separated Parents Policy
Children Missing from Education policy
Physical Intervention Policy
Code of Conduct for Staff Policy
Online Safety Policy
Anti Bullying Policy
Looked After Children
Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation