

## **Blin Language & Culture**

Child Protection Policy : September 2002

The Children Act made it clear that the welfare of the child is the most important thing to consider if we are concerned about children. Parental responsibility rests with the father and mother if they are married, or with the mother if they are not. (If they are not married, but they agree to share parental responsibility, the mother and father can sign a simple form.) But parental responsibility comes second to the welfare of the child.

We have a responsibility, if we think that a child is being harmed or abused, to report our worries to Social Services. We should report if significant harm may be being done to a child.

**The Children Act refers to 4 kinds of significant harm:**

⇒ Emotional abuse

⇒ Neglect

⇒ Physical abuse

⇒ Sexual abuse.

**The key question is: did the parent cause harm to a child by directly abusing the child? by neglecting the child? by not preventing abuse although they knew about it?**

**What to do**

In school teachers and volunteers may hear something that worries them, see something that worries them, or be told by a child that they are being harmed in some way.

- If a child offers to tell you anything in confidence, explain that you must tell someone else if they need protection. Never promise to keep it a secret.
- If you hear or see anything that makes you concerned about a child in your care: Ask the child in a friendly way about it. There may be a simple explanation.
- If you are still worried, write down what you have heard or seen and keep your note somewhere safe where no-one else can read it accidentally. Note the date and keep it short.
- If you are still worried, talk to another teacher or the manager of your supplementary school about your concerns. Make sure no one else can accidentally hear your conversation.
- If you are still worried about emotional abuse, neglect, or physical abuse by parents, speak to the family first. There may be a simple explanation.)
- If you are still concerned, or in all cases of suspected sexual abuse, report your worries to Social Services. You can do this via the head of your supplementary school Mr. Hamd Fadega (07984836426), Lead Teacher Dr. Yemane Semra (07961570248).