



**WALTHAMSTOW HALL
SEVENOAKS**

FOR PUPILS ON CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES

Introduction

Child abuse is when someone under 18 is being harmed, or not being looked after properly. It is no respecter of class, wealth or ethnicity. People who abuse children may look, and behave, as quite ordinary, respectable people. This can make it difficult for children to be believed, or to find help.

What is Child Abuse?

Abuse is never right. It is not your choice. The NSPCC says: “Abuse is always wrong and it is never the young person’s fault.”

The NSPCC defines child abuse in the following way:

“Child abuse is when an adult harms a child or a young person under the age of 18. Child abuse can take four forms, all of which can cause long term damage to a child: physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and child sexual abuse. Bullying and domestic violence are also forms of child abuse.”

What can you do if you are worried?

Although it may be difficult, it is important to talk to somebody:

- If it happens to you, tell someone whom you trust, at once. You need help.
- If it happens to a friend, advise them to tell someone at once. They need help.

Who can you talk to?

The Headmistress is the School’s Designated Safeguarding Lead. You can see the Headmistress or one of the Deputies DSLs at any time if you are being abused, or if someone that you know is being abused. You should speak to them even if the abuse is taking place outside school. Some people may prefer to speak to the School Medical Staff or to another member of staff. Any member of staff to whom you disclose information regarding cases of abuse is obliged to pass it on to the DSL. The important thing is that you talk to someone whom you trust, who will listen to you.

Want to talk to someone outside school?

ChildLine is a free confidential helpline for children and young people. You can call any time on 0800 1111 or go to their website: www.childline.org.uk

The NSPCC’s helpline is 0808 800 5000. Their website is: www.nspcc.org.uk

The Samaritans can be called at any time on 116123

A further website with helpful advice: www.kidscape.org.uk

REMEMBER – nobody has the right to abuse children. It is very important that you tell someone.

Reviewed September 2021
Next review September 2022

Signed: Date:

Mrs J Adams
Chairman of the Governing Body