Milford Morning Club
Safeguarding Children

Milford Morning Club is committed to building a ‘culture of safety’ in which the children in our care are protected from abuse and harm.

The Club will operate under the umbrella of the main school policies with regards to the Safeguarding of children and will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. Each school’s child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and guidance and any incidents will be referred to the relevant school’s Child Protection Officer who may liaise with external agencies for any safeguarding incident.

Allegations against staff

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

- The allegation will be recorded in the Incident Book.
- Any witnesses to the incident will sign and date the entry to confirm it.
- The allegation will be reported to the relevant school’s Child Protection Officer who will then handle the allegation according to the relevant school’s Safeguarding procedures.
- It may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.

Promoting awareness among staff

All staff receive Safeguarding training from their designated Child Protection Officer at their relevant school. They are vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect and are aware of the policies and actions to take if a Safeguarding incident arises. Staff know their statutory requirements with regards to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse. Through the main school policies the Club will always follow Safe Recruitment practices.
If abuse is suspected or disclosed

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to talk to them
- Listen to the child but not question them
- Give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- Record the incident as soon as possible (see below).

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straightaway.

If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

Forms of child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect a child from harm. The following are some signs often associated with particular types of child abuse and neglect. These types of abuse are more often found in combination than alone.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.

- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, or non-contact activities such as showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and emotional needs. Neglect can involve a failure to:
  - provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
  - protect a child from physical and emotional harm
  - ensure adequate supervision
  - allow access to medical treatment.