

What happens if the school has a Child Protection concern about my child?

The school's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy falls in line with the London Safeguarding Children's Board guidance as outlined in the 'London Child protection Procedures (2017)'. The guidance states:

Parental consultation

- 1.5.13 Where practicable, concerns should be discussed with the parent and agreement sought for a referral to LA children's social care unless seeking agreement is likely to place the child at risk of significant harm through delay or the parent's actions or reactions; For example in circumstances where there are concerns or suspicions that a serious crime such as sexual abuse or induced illness has taken place.
- 1.5.14 Where a professional decides not to seek parental permission before making a referral to LA children's social care, the decision must be recorded in the child's file with reasons, dated and signed and confirmed in the referral to LA children's social care.
- 1.5.15 A child protection referral from a professional cannot be treated as anonymous, so the parent will ultimately become aware of the identity of the referrer. Where the parent refuses to give permission for the referral, unless it would cause undue delay, further advice should be sought from a manager or the designated safeguarding children professional and the outcome fully recorded.
- 1.5.16 If, having taken full account of the parents' wishes it is still considered that there is a need for referral:
- The reason for proceeding without parental agreement must be recorded;
 - The parent's withholding of permission must form part of the verbal and written referral to LA children's social care;
 - The parent should be contacted to inform them that, after considering their wishes, a referral has been made.

What should I do if I have questions about a recent referral to Children's Social Care?

Whilst we fully appreciate this can be a very challenging time for families would advise parents to work closely with the school where ever possible. The Designated Child Protection Person or one of the Deputy Child Protection Persons will be involved in supporting you and your child through the process. If your concerns are not addressed or you do not feel comfortable raising concerns with the school then you can always contact the Local Authority Children's Social Care team or the families allocated social worker for advice and guidance. In Ealing you would do this by contacting the Ealing Children's Integrated Response Team (ECIRS) on:

0208 8258000