

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

DECEMBER 2021

NEGLECT:

What is 'Neglect'?

Neglect is the most common form of child abuse and is defined as the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. It may also be that a child is placed in danger, or not protected from other forms of harm.

Neglect can have serious and long-lasting effects on a child or young person. It can be anything from leaving a young child home alone, to the very worst case where a child dies from malnutrition or being denied the care that they need.

Signs that may indicate possible neglect

- Children who are living in a home that is indisputably dirty or unsafe;
- Children who are left hungry or dirty;
- Children who are left without adequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat;
- Children who may be living in dangerous conditions, i.e. around drugs, alcohol or violence
- Children who are often angry, aggressive or they self-harm;
- Children who are frequently absent from school;
- Children who fail to receive basic health care;
- Parents who fail to seek medical treatment when their child is ill or injured

NEGLECT IS THE MOST COMMON REASON FOR TAKING CHILD PROTECTION ACTION.

SCHOOL POLICIES WHICH RELATE TO NEGLECT:

- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

Designated Safeguarding Leads

St Anthony's



MWalker@stahull.org

St Charles'



KRichmond@stchull.org

Endsleigh Holy Child



ABentley@ehchull.org

St Mary Queen of Martyrs



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St Thomas More



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St Richard's



EGriffin@strhull.org

St Vincent's



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HAVING ONE OF THE SIGNS OF NEGLECT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON IS BEING NEGLECTED, BUT IF YOU NOTICE MULTIPLE OR PERSISTENT SIGNS THEN IT COULD INDICATE THERE IS A PROBLEM. NEGLECT IS NOT ALWAYS STRAIGHTFORWARD TO IDENTIFY AND CAN OCCUR AT ANY STAGE OF CHILDHOOD, INCLUDING THE TEENAGE YEARS.

What to do:

Neglect is characterised by a cumulative pattern rather than discrete incidents or crises, and so drift is always a potential problem. Accurate, detailed and contemporaneous recording plus sharing information is crucial to the protection of the child or young person. If a child appears resilient, you should not accept this at face value, but should check for evidence of unmet needs and impaired health and development.

Early intervention and support for families, where neglect is identified, is of utmost importance in safeguarding children from harm.

Actions to take

- Step 1: Be alert. Signs of neglect might not always be obvious.
- Step 2: Accurately record any emerging patterns of concern. Speak to the child and try to ascertain what life is like for them.
- Step 3: If concerns persist, report to you Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible via the normal reporting and recording procedures.
- Step 4: Continue to monitor and share any on-going concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead

Impact of child neglect

"My dad doesn't feed us. He is never here and I am not allowed to see my mum. Most days I go to school feeling ill because I am not eating or sleeping properly. I often have a headache or bellyache. I wish I could go into care."

Childline counselling session with a girl aged 12 (NSPCC, 2015)

National Guidance and External sources of help:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- <https://hullscb.proceduresonline.com/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indicators-of-neglect-missed-opportunities>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/childhood-neglect-training-resources>