

What to do if a student discloses?

Do

Don't

- Reassure them they have done the right thing to tell & that it wasn't their fault.
 - Listen carefully & calmly, let the child guide the pace (Note your body language)
 - Use open questions (Tell, Explain, Describe, Who, What, When, How, Where, Anything else you want to say?)
 - It is ok to repeat back to clarify.
 - Say what will happen next. 'I'm really concerned about what you have told me so I need to talk to Ms/Mr X so that we can help'.
 - Make accurate notes using the child's words (Any questions asked & the answers)
 - Inform the DSL immediately.
 - Keep the child informed.
 - Remember it could lead to investigation, keep records clear & professional.
- React strongly
 - Rush the child
 - Share personal experiences
 - Stop a child talking—they have chosen you to tell
 - Ask leading questions (That's a nasty bruise did you get it playing football? Did dad do that?)
 - Investigate or interrogate
 - Promise confidentiality
 - Interrupt or jump in too quickly with advice.
 - Automatically offer physical comfort, students may be uncomfortable with this.
 - Say you will make it better/fix it.
 - Gossip afterwards
 - Take photos of injuries—use the body map instead

Concerns about a child.
Have you spoken to them?

RECORD IT

Concerns about a member of staff? ASAP report to the Head teacher. (Chair of governors if concerns are about the head)

NSPCC Whistle Blowing
Helpline: 0800 028 0285

We would talk to parents about concerns unless it put the child at increased risk. Seek advice from the DSL first.

In exceptional circumstances you can refer to other agencies directly, however DSL's are trained in how to do this effectively & have access to more information.

As soon as possible
Refer to your DSL.
Who then actions & provides appropriate feedback

If in any doubt about the response please talk to you DSL & consult your policy for escalation if necessary.