

Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School
Child Protection Investigations and the Detention of Children
Guidance for ALL staff

Holy Trinity has a significant role in supporting the Police and Children Social Care in the progression of Child Protection (CP) enquires as, often because of disclosures to our staff, referrals are made to the Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that identifies children as being at risk of harm. The introduction of the MASH has meant that information sharing and decision making, by partner agencies, is swifter, and in turn, the progression of CP investigations should be timelier.

Referral is received


- Intelligence gathered;
- Decision to progress CP investigations made;
- MASH Manager liaises with us to ensure we are kept up to date with the progression of the case through the MASH and inform us of relevant timescales.
- We **MUST** contact the MASH at least 1 hour before the end of the school day to confirm the time the investigating officers will be in attendance

School day is ending
and investigating
officers have not

School day ends and
investigating officers
have not attended. A
parent attends school

We cannot prevent a parent/carer from leaving the premises with their child.

- The child is in **immediate danger**: keep the child safe at school until the arrival of the investigating officers. If parents insist on removing their child from school, dial 999 and ensure an immediate police presence.
- The child is in **immediate danger**: keep the child safe at school until the arrival of the investigating officers. If parents arrive and wish to wait until the arrival of the investigating officers, place parents in the hub and child/ren in the Romero Suite.
- The child is **not in immediate danger**, and **is willing to return home**: allow the child to leave school (as we have no right to detain) **BUT** no information is to be shared with parents/carers regarding the disclosure lest the risk to the child increases as a result. Dependent on age and understanding, the child will be assured that information has not been shared with their parent/carer at this juncture and that a visit from the police/social worker will be taking place.
- The child is **not in immediate danger**, and is **unwilling to return home**: keep the child safe at school whilst awaiting the arrival of the investing officers. Advise parents/carers that police/social workers have been contacted as their child is 'unhappy at home'. Place parents in the hub and child/ren in the Romero Suite.
- Inform the MASH of the child's position in **all** of the above circumstances.



Removing a child
from the school
premises

We have no legal right to detain a child.

- We cannot remove the child from the school premises unless there is an immediate safeguarding risk and removal is necessary to provide medical attention or if the school is compromised in terms of a place of safety.
- Removal can only be to a Police Station.
- Before taking the child to the Police Station, we must contact the station and request that the Response Supervisor (i.e. the Inspector or Sergeant) is immediately informed of the impending arrival.
- Inform the MASH of the child's position in all of the above circumstances.
- Two members of staff MUST be present.