**Child Protection Policy Statement**

Thornton Primary School is committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care.

Our school will support all children by:

* Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school
* Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness
* Effectively tackling bullying and harassment.

We recognise that some children may well be the victims of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Staff working with children are well placed to identify such abuse.

At Thornton Primary School, in order to protect our children we aim to:

* Create an atmosphere where all our children can feel secure, valued and listened to
* Recognise signs and symptoms of abuse
* Respond quickly and effectively to cases of suspected abuse.

If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, is at risk of harm or if you receive a disclosure (intentionally or unintentionally) you must contact the following member of staff as quickly as possible:

**DSL Mrs Sue Simmons**

**Head teacher Mrs Sue Simmons**

Everyone working with our children, their parents and carers should be aware that:

* Their role is to listen and note carefully any observations which could indicate abuse.
* They should not attempt to investigate once the initial concern is raised.
* They should involve the Designated Senior Person (DSP) immediately.
* If the DSP is not available the Head or Deputy DSP should be contacted.
* Disclosures of abuse or harm from children may be made at any time.

*If anything worries you or concerns you, report it straight away*