

Resilience



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Responses to cases of neglect typically focus on effecting change in the parents – improving their parenting skills, reducing their reliance on alcohol or drugs, support for health needs and so forth.

It is equally crucial to focus on directly supporting the child, helping them to understand their situation, realise they are not at fault, develop effective coping strategies and achieve their potential. Confidence and self-esteem are central to resilience, and school staff have a vitally important role to play here, as they already have a relationship with the child and can observe the child in their daily school routine. Most importantly, school offers a safe and consistent environment, positive role models and a culture of respect and inclusiveness. Strategies will depend on the age and ability of the child, and the severity of the neglect.

Through individual, class and whole-school initiatives we can help the child to:

- develop a positive view of themselves and their potential
- learn problem-solving skills and different ways of dealing with difficult situations
- understand risk and assess risky situations
- recognise their skills and build on those to achieve success and self-esteem
- make and maintain friendships with peers
- develop respectful relationships with trusted adults
- improve their communication skills
- conduct themselves appropriately and find ways to reduce any inappropriate behaviour
- channel their energy positively
- help others, and realise they have skills and qualities that can benefit others
- report bullying or other unacceptable behaviour
- celebrate their own culture and show respect for others
- participate in school clubs and community activities
- keep a sense of humour
- remain motivated and ambitious to achieve
- know they have a right to be safe.

The school works closely with parents wherever possible and will seek external support for the child as necessary.

A referral will be made to Children's Social Care if we believe the child is at risk of harm.