

What should I do if my child tells me something inappropriate has happened or I find the tutor behaving inappropriately with my child?

Any adult who behaves in an inappropriate or abusive manner with a child must be reported to Children's Social Care. If your child tells you of inappropriate behaviour you must listen to your child and reassure them that it is not their fault.

However embarrassed or uncomfortable you feel about what your child tells you or what you find, you must put the welfare of your child first. In such circumstances you should ensure that the individual is dismissed immediately from the position of private tutor to your child. You must inform the Children's Social Care team in Grimsby who will make enquiries into the matter jointly with the police where appropriate.

Conclusion

Recruiting a private tutor can cause anxiety. As a parent you will wish to be satisfied that you are employing a tutor who is properly qualified and who can be relied upon to cause no harm to your child. By following the guidance within this leaflet, you will have taken reasonable steps to safeguard your child;

Local safeguarding children's board co-ordinator

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Guidance for parents considering employing a private tutor



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Introduction

Parents may consider employing a private tutor for a variety of reasons. They may wish, for example, to assist their child generally with school work; to help them build confidence with a particular subject or skill such as reading; to help them improve on potential examination grades; or to help them learn a musical instrument or other skill.

This leaflet is intended to assist parents in selecting an appropriately trained and verified professional to work with their child as a private tutor.

Some commonly asked questions:

Q Does the local authority hold a list of approved tutors?

A Local authorities do not keep lists of approved tutors.

Q Can the school help me identify a tutor?

A Your child's school is often the best place to start. Share your concerns about your child's progress. Staff may not otherwise be aware of your worries. Staff will already have a good knowledge of your child and his or her individual learning needs and abilities. They may be able to offer additional support to your child as part of the teaching they provide in school.

If you remain concerned, staff at the school may know of other colleagues who would be willing to provide additional support for your child at home on a private paid basis. All teaching staff employed in schools should have been subject

to professional checks regarding their suitability to work with children and young people, and also regarding their professional qualifications.

If I do not wish to approach the school, how do I find a tutor to work with my child?

Many private tutors advertise in the local paper and online, often under specific subject headings. When recruiting from these sources, it is still helpful to inform your child's school that you are doing so to enable them to be responsive to your child's changing learning needs. Parents considering this option should ensure that they are satisfied that the tutor in question is qualified, and does not present a threat to their child's welfare.

When selecting a tutor in this way, how can I be sure that he or she is properly qualified and does not pose a risk to my child?

Always interview any potential candidate, and ask to see their career resumé.

Ask for and check professional references from someone who knows the tutor now and ask to see qualification certificates. If there are career gaps on the individual's resumé, ask for reasons and seek evidence of any explanations given.

If the tutor is currently, or has recently been employed in a school, ask for a reference from the head teacher, and (if a qualified teacher) you can check their qualified teacher status by contacting the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

If the tutor is a freelance and or works as a supply teacher ask to see their Disclosure and Barring (DBS) Check. This will indicate that the individual has been checked for any known offences.

It is also helpful for the tutor and your child to meet prior to you making a decision. Observing the interaction between the potential tutor and your child may help to inform your decision.

When I have found a suitable tutor, where should tuition take place?

Tuition is best undertaken in a quiet place, which is well organised and suitable for study, away from the distractions of television and radio.

A bedroom is never appropriate, even if it contains a study area. It is essential that you (or another trusted adult chosen by you) remain on the premises. Any chaperone arrangement offered by the tutor (for example his or her partner) should be refused. It is important that you have access to the teaching area and can observe and hear activity at any time you wish. Intervening doors should be kept open, even though this may mean curtailing your own activities. Any tutor who is mindful and aware of current expectations of professional staff should have no objection and is likely to offer the arrangement without your suggestion.

You or the tutor may have a preference about whether the tuition takes place in your home, the tutor's home, or elsewhere, but the conditions outlined above should apply in each case. You should not feel that you are acting unreasonably to expect this and should not accept inferior arrangements.