



Our safeguarding policy applies to all staff, students, volunteers (including parents/carers) and any other adult working with or supporting the school.

Aims

- To protect and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in Deerpark Primary School.
- To provide all staff and adults with the necessary information that guides our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

In Deerpark Primary School, we recognise that:

- All children regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexuality have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable due to the impact of previous or current experiences, additional support needs, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, parents/carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare and wellbeing of all children.

Deerpark staff will do this by:

- Creating a kind, nurturing and safe environment where all children can be listened to and supported.
- Providing meaningful, engaging and exciting learning experiences which allow all children to meet their full potential and be the best they can be.
- Teaching, through our health and wellbeing curriculum, how pupils can keep themselves safe and healthy, with a focus on their emotional health and well-being.
- Being observant of children's needs, views and concerns and responding to issues being raised in the school community.
- Reporting and recording concerns about the welfare or safety of children.
- Ensuring that we get it right for every child by working closely with all partners.
- Providing therapeutic support for targeted individuals through a wellbeing worker, Counselling in Schools, Creative Therapeutic Interventions, CSSS and CLD Outreach Teams.

This policy has been written on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children namely:

- HGIOS4
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland May 2021 - updated in 2023
- Child Protection Learning and Development 2024: National Framework
- Getting it Right for Every Child: National Practice Model (2022)
- UNCRC (Articles 9, 19, 21, 24, 26, 33, 34, 37)
- Clackmannanshire Council's Child Wellbeing and Protection Guidance 2023

Child Protection Responsibilities

Head of Establishment

In Deerpark Primary School the Headteacher has overall responsibility for all child protection issues. These responsibilities include the following:

- Ensuring that all staff know that there is a named child protection coordinator in our establishment.
- Ensuring that the Clackmannanshire Child Protection procedures and guidelines are brought to the attention of all staff on an annual basis, that all staff complete annual Child Protection training as part of our August Staff Development Day and that mandatory training is completed on an annual basis.
- Monitoring the training of staff in Child Protection procedures, particularly new staff.
- Ensuring that the guidance in the Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines are followed.
- Developing establishment policy and practice to meet national and local authority guidance.
- Updating the safeguarding and child protection information in the establishment handbook.

Child Protection Coordinator

In Deerpark Primary School the Child Protection Coordinator is Anne Rice (Headteacher) supported by the Depute Child Protection Coordinator, David Patterson (Depute Headteacher). The responsibilities of the child protection coordinator include:

- Ensuring the vigilance of all staff in responding to or reporting welfare or child protection concerns to the Child Protection Coordinator (Anne Rice HT) or Depute Child Protection Coordinator (David Patterson DHT). Both HT and DHT are fully trained in Intra-agency Child Protection Key Processes Roles and Responsibilities.
- Ensuring our extended Senior Leadership Team has additional training. Our Principal Teacher (Fiona Kelly) and our Home School Liaison Officer (Laura MacMillan) are fully trained in Intra-agency Child Protection Key Processes Roles and Responsibilities.
- Our Principal Teacher (Graeme Wright) is fully trained in Intra-Agency Child Protection Identification of Needs, Risks and Desired Outcomes.
- Being conversant with the information contained in the Child Protection procedures and guidelines.
- Delivering annual child protection training to all staff.
- Coordinating personal and social education programmes.
- Coordinating support within the establishment for specific children.
- Cooperating on behalf of the establishment with inter-agency child protection support plans.
- Liaising with other establishments and external agencies.

Staff and Visitors

In Deerpark Primary it is important that staff and visitors take an active role in promoting the care and welfare of our pupils and deal sensitively and effectively with children's needs and concerns. In terms of child protection, staff and visitors should be aware of the following grounds for concern, which can arise from a wide range of circumstances but will generally be covered by the following events:

Grounds for Concern

- A child states that abuse has taken place or the child feels unsafe.
- A third party or anonymous allegation is received.
- A child's appearance, behaviour, play, drawing or statement causing suspicion of abuse.
- A child reports an incident of abuse, which occurred some time ago.
- Staff witness abuse.

Responding to Grounds for Concern

- Any grounds for concern should be reported immediately to the Child Protection Co-ordinator or Depute Child Protection Coordinator. On no account should staff tell a parent/carer about what has happened at this stage, nor agree to keep the information secret or discuss the matter with others.
- If there is direct evidence or suspicion of a child protection concern, the matter must be reported immediately to Childcare Services by the CP Co-ordinator or Depute.
- Staff must follow the guidance given by the Child Protection Coordinators in relation to recording concerns, supporting the child, co-operating with subsequent actions to investigate the grounds for concern, and protecting the child or children concerned. We ensure all staff treat issues sensitively and confidentially and refrain from asking leading questions.
- All information recording must be relevant, accurate, signed and dated as it may become a legal document. The information should include a clear, succinct chronology of events, all relevant factual information and a summary of the employee response and any agreements reached.
- Responses are recorded in the child's own words and reported directly to Child Protection Coordinators.
- Details are recorded on Pastoral Notes – Child Protection Coordinators will also update with any outcome.
- It is essential that there is no delay in initiating protection procedures even where the head of establishment is absent from the establishment. In this circumstance, staff should contact the Improving Outcomes Team at Kilncraigs.
- During any disclosure of abuse by a child staff should respond in a sensitive and supportive manner.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

In Deerpark staff support all children by:

- Creating and maintaining a positive, inclusive and nurturing ethos.
- Developing health and personal safety programmes.
- Being observant of children's needs, views and concerns.
- Reporting and recording concerns about the welfare or safety of children.
- Monitoring and supporting children in cooperation with relevant professionals, parents and carers.

We strive to keep our children safe by:

- Valuing them and respecting them in line with our school's vision, values and aims.
- Providing our children with regular opportunities to develop their understanding of safety issues in relation to the 8 wellbeing indicators including e-safety, anti-bullying and equality working with relevant agencies / organisations as appropriate.

- Implementing the Clackmannanshire internet safety policy.
- Ensuring safety of all staff and learners by adhering to our Mobile Phone policy.
- Teaching, encouraging and supporting our children to be confident individuals and equipping them with the skills and strategies to communicate effectively and seek help when needed.
- Providing opportunities for children to talk to trusted adults using well established systems such as 'My 5'.
- Tracking all pupils regularly and rigorously in line with GIRFEC policy to ensure that vulnerable pupils are identified and that the needs of pupils are met through effective support, including multi agency support where appropriate.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring that all necessary checks are made.
- Communicating with and sharing concerns and relevant information with agencies, involving parents/carers and children appropriately.
- Developing positive and trusting relationships with children and their families, where both feel listened to and respected through our Positive Relationships and Behaviour Guidance.
- Ensuring our Home School Liaison Officer monitors and reviews attendance, particularly for our most vulnerable learners.
- Ensuring pupil attendance is monitored at TAC meetings.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistle blowing procedures in place and that we respond to any concerns or complaints quickly and positively and that these are logged.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, staff and visitors by applying health and safety measures in accordance with law and regulatory guidance, including accessing our Business Continuity Plan, if and when necessary.

Safeguarding in the Curriculum

The following areas are addressed in health and wellbeing (in the curriculum and during Team Talks):

- Bullying/cyberbullying
- Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Internet/e-safety
- Fire and Water Safety – including Bonfire Night
- Sun Safety
- Road Safety
- Self Esteem
- Sexual Health and Relationships
- Diversity
- Mental Health and Wellbeing

Anne Rice

Reviewed January 2025

Review August 2025