**Safeguarding and child protection**

**Safeguarding** is a much wider concept than child protection and refers to promoting the welfare of children, young people and protected adults. It encompasses protecting from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health or development, ensuring that they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children, young people and protected adults to have the best outcome. Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

We have a distinctive approach to safeguarding in Scotland linked to Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) which promotes action to improve the wellbeing of every child and young person. Safeguarding is a golden thread that runs through the curriculum. The aim is to support the development of learner’s knowledge, skills and resilience to keep themselves safe and protect themselves and to develop an understanding of the world so that they can respond to a range of issues and potential risky situations arising throughout their lives. As such, it permeates many features of the education experience including leadership, values, vision, the curriculum, learning and teaching, positive relationships, building learner resilience, etc.

Everyone has a responsibility to protect young people and protected adults.

Every child, young person and protected adult, at all times, has a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice which may result in harm.

Above all, the welfare of children, young people and protected adults is the paramount consideration and we must all work together to ensure they are protected.

This includes taking steps to protect children in our care while they are on-line.

Staying safe online is a theme which is delivered through the curriculum and through the advice and guidance offered to young people from teachers and other adults. This is supported by technology which protects from harmful things such as viruses, phising scams and identity theft as well as restricting access to web sites which are potentially harmful or inappropriate.

In addition to protecting children while they are online, there is a specific requirement under **PREVENT** for Local Authorities (and schools) to take steps to safeguard young people from online radicalisation.

Since summer 2018 Clackmannanshire Council has implemented new web filtering software to enable this approach to safeguarding. There is a degree of granularity with different profiles available for primary, secondary and staff users.

Safeguarding alerts apply only to primary and secondary pupil groups, however all web access is logged for cyber security compliance purposes

The filtering software automatically generates safeguarding alerts when pupils trigger warnings on:

Radicalisation

Abuse

Pornography

Suicide

Drugs

This monitoring is done automatically by the software using algorithms/heuristics as well as checking against hundreds of thousands of known bad sites derived from safeguarding sources on the internet and the notifications are then sent to the child protection mailbox.

When a notification is sent to the CP mailbox it is checked by an experienced member of staff and where appropriate, we can identify the pupil(s) concerned and their names will be forwarded to schools to follow up and have the appropriate conversations with the children concerned.

Whilst we are aware that misspelling and typing errors can produce false positives, we still check all of these notifications.

Where web sites are blocked incorrectly, there is a simple process whereby they can be unblocked by means of a request by a teacher to the IT Helpdesk.

Where schools are concerned about the online behaviour of a young person they should discuss this with the CP coordinator who may arrange further monitoring or investigations if appropriate.

Staff are encouraged to continue having constructive conversations with pupils around staying safe online.