



## SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

**CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR: Mrs Miller (HT)**

DEPUTE CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR: Mrs Wilson (DHT)

Tel: 0141 570 7440 Email: [schoolmail@thornliebank.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@thornliebank.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

Safeguarding and child protection is everyone's job and all children and young people in our school and nursery have the right to be cared for, protected from harm and able to grow up in a safe environment where their rights and needs are respected.

We all have a part to play in making sure that our children's needs are met and they are safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation. This includes **all staff** within our school and nursery, including supply teachers, all support staff, technicians, janitorial, catering and cleaning staff who have regular contact with children. This policy guides the school and nursery in protecting the rights of every child and ensuring that every child is kept safe.

Mrs Jenni Miller (Head Teacher) is the designated Child Protection Coordinator for Thornliebank Primary School & Nursery Class and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank, and will be responsible for the following:

- ✓ being the main contact for child protection referrals from staff and ensuring that local and national guidance is followed correctly and consistently;
- ✓ ensuring all staff are informed about child protection through annual in house child protection training and access to the child protection training calendar;
- ✓ ensuring general information on pupil support and child protection is readily available to parents, staff and pupils;
- ✓ liaising with other agencies to support investigations, court proceedings, child supervision requirements and case referrals;
- ✓ ensuring meticulous record keeping of all information, related to child welfare and protection using a chronology of significant events, with relevant documentation;
- ✓ ensuring child protection files are securely stored, with clear protocols for sharing of the information.

In the absence of the Head Teacher, the Depute Child Protection Co-ordinator – Mrs Jennifer Wilson (Depute Head Teacher) – will take on the above responsibilities.



Mrs Miller (Head Teacher)

Mrs Wilson (Depute Head Teacher)



# Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class

## Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank

### Policy and Procedures



All staff must:

- ✓ ensure they are fully conversant with Revised Standard Circular 57;
- ✓ contribute to a proactive school ethos, which seeks to minimise the risk of harm;
- ✓ share information on an inter-agency basis which is of benefit to a child's wellbeing;
- ✓ focus on preventative, early intervention strategies;
- ✓ respond effectively and promptly to any concerns, especially of imminent risk to a child;
- ✓ contribute to the assessment of a child's needs and necessary support;
- ✓ contribute to assessment and recording of all child welfare and child protection concerns, using a chronology of significant events and related documentation.

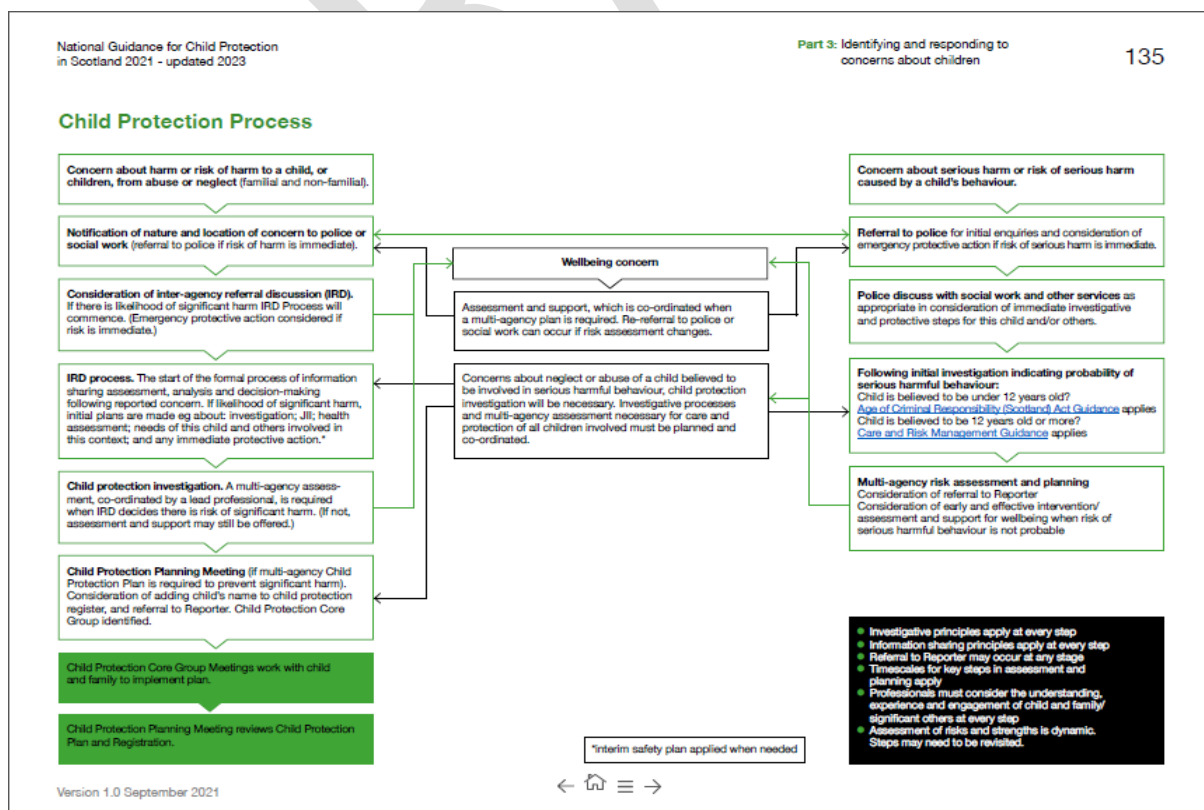
Children and young people have a right to be listened to and their voice heard. A child or young person may seek out a trusted member of staff to tell them about a worry or concern. In such situations, the member of staff should:

- ✓ be supportive and assure them you will only share this information with those people who need to know in order to prevent any further harm;
- ✓ take time to listen to what the child is saying, without asking too many questions;
- ✓ reassure the child that they were right to tell you;
- ✓ record in the child's own words what was said; and,
- ✓ sign and date these notes.

The **information should immediately be passed on** to the Child Protection Coordinator.

Where there is any concern related to the conduct of a member of staff immediate contact must be made with the Head Teacher.

Where a member of staff has concerns related to the conduct of the Head Teacher, immediate contact should be made with the Education Senior Manager (Developing People).





Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class  
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank  
Policy and Procedures



What is child abuse and child neglect?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to act to prevent, significant harm to the child. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. The following definitions show some of the ways in which abuse may be experienced by a child but are not exhaustive, as the individual circumstances of abuse will vary from child to child.

Physical abuse is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the imposition of age- or developmentally-inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or exploiting or corrupting children. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child; it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

Sexual abuse is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional needs. Neglect may also result in the child being diagnosed as suffering from 'non-organic failure to thrive', where they have significantly failed to reach normal weight and growth or development milestones and where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated. In its extreme form children can be at serious risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation. This can lead to serious long-term effects such as greater susceptibility to serious childhood illnesses and reduction in potential stature. With young children in particular, the consequences may be life-threatening within a relatively short period of time.



**Useful Contact Numbers**

Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity) 0141 577 3204

Social Work Request for Assistance Team 0141 577 8300

Out of hours: Standby Social Work 0300 343 1505

Police Scotland – ask for the Public Protection Unit 101

Barrhead Police Station 0141 532 6200

Giffnock Police Station 0141 532 5700

Children’s Reporter 0300 200 1400

ChildLine 0800 1111

ERC Child protection website: <http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/ercpc>

National Guidance for Child Protection  
 in Scotland 2021 - updated 2023

Introduction

**Figure 1:** Expectations from children who may be involved in child protection processes.

