



Sgoil an lochdair Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

The common responsibilities of Sgoil-Àraich an lochdair and Sgoil an lochdair staff are to protect children from abuse and exploitation, to respond appropriately when abuse is identified and to ensure, whenever possible, that all children are able to exercise their right to be raised in a warm, stimulating and safe environment with the support of staff, their families and their carers. This relates to the theme of The Children Scotland Act. The welfare of children is paramount as it is the child who is the main priority.

It is imperative that all staff members are aware of and follow the guidelines listed below if they suspect abuse has taken place. For a child to require protection, it is not required that abuse or neglect has taken place but rather a risk assessment has identified a significant likelihood of risk or abuse or neglect.

Sgoil an lochdair's Child Protection Co-ordinator is the Head of School, Mrs Joan MacDonald, and in Mrs MacDonald's absence, Mrs Kay Marie MacInnes (Class Teacher).

All staff carry out Child Protection Basic Awareness Training and have access to the Child Protection PowerPoint Presentation, both of which are refreshed on an annual basis. Volunteers are also invited to attend this training. An internal register of staff and volunteer training is maintained by the Child Protection Coordinator.

Objectives: The objective of this policy is to ensure that all staff:

- Fulfil both pro-active and re-active responses to protect children from abuse.
- Co-operate and collaborate with other relevant agencies in child protection.
- Promote the welfare of all children.
- Have regard to any protected characteristic.
- Develop learning opportunities which promote children's good health and safety in all aspects of their lives.
- Develop skills to assist children reduce their vulnerability to abuse.
- Work in partnership with parents unless concerns about a child's safety indicate this is not in the child's best interest.

