

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

Information for Parents, Volunteers and Partners



CHILD PROTECTION DESIGNATED PERSON:

Headteacher

Mrs Dianne Morrison

or in her absence Principal Teacher, Fiona MacInnes

or in her absence Nursery Manager, Alina MacAskill-Simpson.

For further information please see the 'Western Isles Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Procedures and Guidelines' which can be found on the Comhairle Website.

Getting it Right for Every Child in Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath

Initial Issue: August 2024

Amended May 2025

Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath Protecting Children & Young People

Everyone who works and or volunteers with children, young people and their families has a responsibility to support the child or young person. They have a 'duty of care' to all the children in the school and Sgoil Àraich.

If anyone has concerns about a child in Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath, their first response must be to inform the **Child Protection Coordinator, Head Teacher, Dianne Morrison or in her absence, Principal Teacher, Fiona MacInnes or in her absence, Nursery Manager, Alina MacAskill-Simpson.**

All staff / volunteers carry out Child Protection Basic Awareness Training in line with Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, both of which are refreshed on an annual basis.

Children can come to harm because of:

- **Neglect *such as*:** Constant hunger and/or tiredness, self-harming or suicidal ideation, inadequate clothing, untreated medical problems, poor hygiene, compulsive stealing, low self-esteem, destructive tendencies, non-attendance at school, poor social relationships, development difficulties or delay, and challenging behaviour.
- ***Physical Injury Indicators may include:*** An injury which does not match the story of the incident, unexplained bruising or bruising in an unusual place, a high number or frequency of injuries or over-use of medicine.
- ***Emotional Abuse Possible indicators:*** Appearing afraid, quiet or withdrawn, being afraid to go home, lack of self-esteem, displaying overly aggressive behaviours, adopting bullying or cyber bullying behaviours, unexplained or unpredictable displays of emotion, modelling of manipulative behaviours.
- ***Sexual Abuse indicators which may include:*** Worry or 'frozen' reaction to touching, emotional withdrawal, expressing strong fear or dislike of individuals or situations, inappropriate touching and lack of appropriate physical boundaries with adults, excessive sexual awareness for age, self-harming activities, panic attacks, toileting difficulties and/or frequent urinary infections.
- **Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of abuse.** It happens when a child or young person is coerced, manipulated or deceived into sexual activity in exchange for things that they may need or want. CSE is a real and present risk and, unlike many other Child Protection factors, it can be a 'crime without borders' due to the global nature of the internet. CSE can happen in person or online and can include gangs operating collectively.

PREVENT:

PREVENT is about and communities from the threat of. It is one of the four elements of, the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Any radicalisation or terrorism concerns should be reported under normal child protection procedures.

REFERRAL PROCEDURE:

When there are child protection concerns adults should bring this to the immediate attention of the Child Protection Coordinator. If the information available warrants referral, the Child Protection Coordinator will immediately get in touch with the Social Work Duty Officer. Facts will be carefully and immediately recorded. Prompt reporting will ensure that the child is given immediate protection.

If the Child Protection Coordinator or her deputies are absent from the school, then direct contact should be made with the Duty Social Worker, 01851 822 749.