

***Springburn Academy***

***Child Protection  
and  
Safeguarding***

***Guide for parents & carers***





## ***Audrey McCracken***

The Child Protection Coordinator for Springburn Academy is Mrs Audrey McCracken

Located in Office 132

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If unavailable please see the Head Teacher



## **What is safeguarding?**

Safeguarding is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm. This requires a continuum of preventative and protective work.

## **What is Child Protection?**

Each and every child in Scotland has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse and neglect.

Everyone has a role in protecting children from harm, abuse and neglect.

Most children in Scotland grow up safe, healthy, protected, loved and well cared for with their parents or carers in loving homes, but at times some children may need additional support and protection.

Child Protection is used to describe what action is taken to prevent harm to children and protect them from abuse and neglect. It is the responsibility of parents, carers and public services to make sure children are safe and healthy and to support their wellbeing.

If there are significant concerns about a child's safety and concerns that they are not being kept safe and may be harmed, then child protection services need to act. They must work together and with children and their parents or carers to find ways to keep the child safe.

There is national guidance that sets out everything that should be done by everyone who is responsible for keeping children safe as part of their job.



## Children's rights and child protection

All children under 18 have the right to be safe and protected. That's everyone from unborn babies right up until the night before someone's 18th birthday. Parents who are under 18 have rights as children and rights as parents. They must be supported based on what they need.

Children's rights to be kept safe and healthy is in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a set of rights that the UK has agreed to for all children.

The UNCRC includes 42 rights to make sure children, and young people are listened to and heard, their views are respected, and they can be healthy, learn, play, grow and be safe.

Children have the right to not be harmed, abused or neglected in any way and child protection works to uphold these rights.

Child Protection is about a balance of safety and rights.

Who needs to share information about their worries?

Everyone has a role in protecting children from harm, abuse and neglect. Anyone concerned about a child can and should share their worries.

### *This includes:*

- *Parents and carers who are worried about their child or another child they know*
- *School teacher and other adults who work in the child's school*
  - *Health professionals like doctors. Nurses, health visitors*
  - *People who know the child including relatives, neighbours or local youth workers*
- *Other people in the community who may have seen or heard something that has worried them*

## What happens when families need support?

Each child and their family should have a contact person to ask for help when they need early support, advice, and access to services. This person may be called a child's 'named person' and in our school this is likely to be your child's Pastoral Care Teacher or Year Head.

Each child and their family will be helped by support services working together with them. This means the school staff listening to the families, understanding what is happening, and planning with children and their parents or carers to put in place the support that they need.

There should be a range of support available because what children and their families need is individual to them and what a child and their family needs can change over time. Sometimes even with extra support, things can get more difficult for families and where there are concerns about potential abuse, neglect or serious harm, the police and social work in the local authority should be told about these concerns. If there is a child protection concern, there will be a lead professional who will be a social worker who works in children and families' services in the local authority.

All parents may need support. Where there are risks to the safety of a child, the support will be the most intensive. When there is a child protection concern, a plan of action to keep a child safe may be needed.



## What are harm, abuse and neglect?

Harm, abuse and neglect can be intended and deliberate, or unintended and not deliberate. The impact of harm, abuse or neglect, or risk of these for a child needs careful assessment. It might mean that parents and carers need support to keep their child safe.

It is possible that a child could be harmed, abused or neglected in lots of different situations. They could be harmed, abused or neglected by the adults who are their parents or carers, by their sisters or brothers, or by other relatives or people in the household. Or they could be harmed, abused or neglected by people they don't live with: either by people they know or by people the child and their family don't know. Harm and abuse can happen in person or online.



Here are what the words harm, abuse and neglect mean in child protection:

## Harm

Harm means when a child is treated badly or cruelly. This can damage a child's physical and mental health and the way they are developing.

## Abuse

Abuse can take many forms and can cause harm to a child's physical health and mental health.

It is important that all parents and carers know something about the different types of abuse so that they can protect their child and speak to someone if they have worries. How something makes you feel is important. If something does not feel right, speak to someone you trust or reach out to professionals whose job it is to also protect children like a teacher, police officer or social worker. Every person in Scotland has access to a social work department in the local authority area they live in, with staff who are trained to support children and families. If you are worried about a child, access the information on the CELCIS website for help.

## Neglect

Neglect can take many forms and can cause harm to a child's physical health and mental health.



## **Types of abuse or harm**

Some of these are difficult to read about and may be upsetting.

If you need to talk to somebody, especially if you are worried or need support, please reach out to us. There are also services who can help you. Call Parentline on 08000 28 22 33 or go to Children 1st for advice and support.

### **1. Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse is causing physical harm to a child. This can be caused by punching, kicking, slapping, hitting with implements, burning, shaking, or throwing. This can result in wounds, bruises, broken bones and internal injuries leaving children injured, traumatised and, in some cases, leading to the loss of life. They can be left feeling hurt, frightened and upset.

### **2. Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is harm caused to a child's emotional feelings and mental wellbeing which does or could cause long term damage. A child can feel worthless, unloved, scared, ignored, put down, bullied, threatened or pressured. Emotional abuse can include making a child take on too much responsibility, being misused by the adults who should be caring for them or being alienated from a parent.



### **3. Domestic Abuse**

Domestic abuse where adults in the household are at risk affects children living in that environment. It is traumatic for children who witness a parent or carer who is experiencing physical violence, emotional or sexual violence. This can cause physical and emotional harm to children, including an unborn child.

### **4. Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse of a child means making or manipulating, forcing or coercing a child to take part in any sexual activity. This could be through physical, sexual contact but also through non-contact activity, for example, involving children in looking at or taking indecent images of them, watching sexual activities of others or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

### **5. Criminal Exploitation**

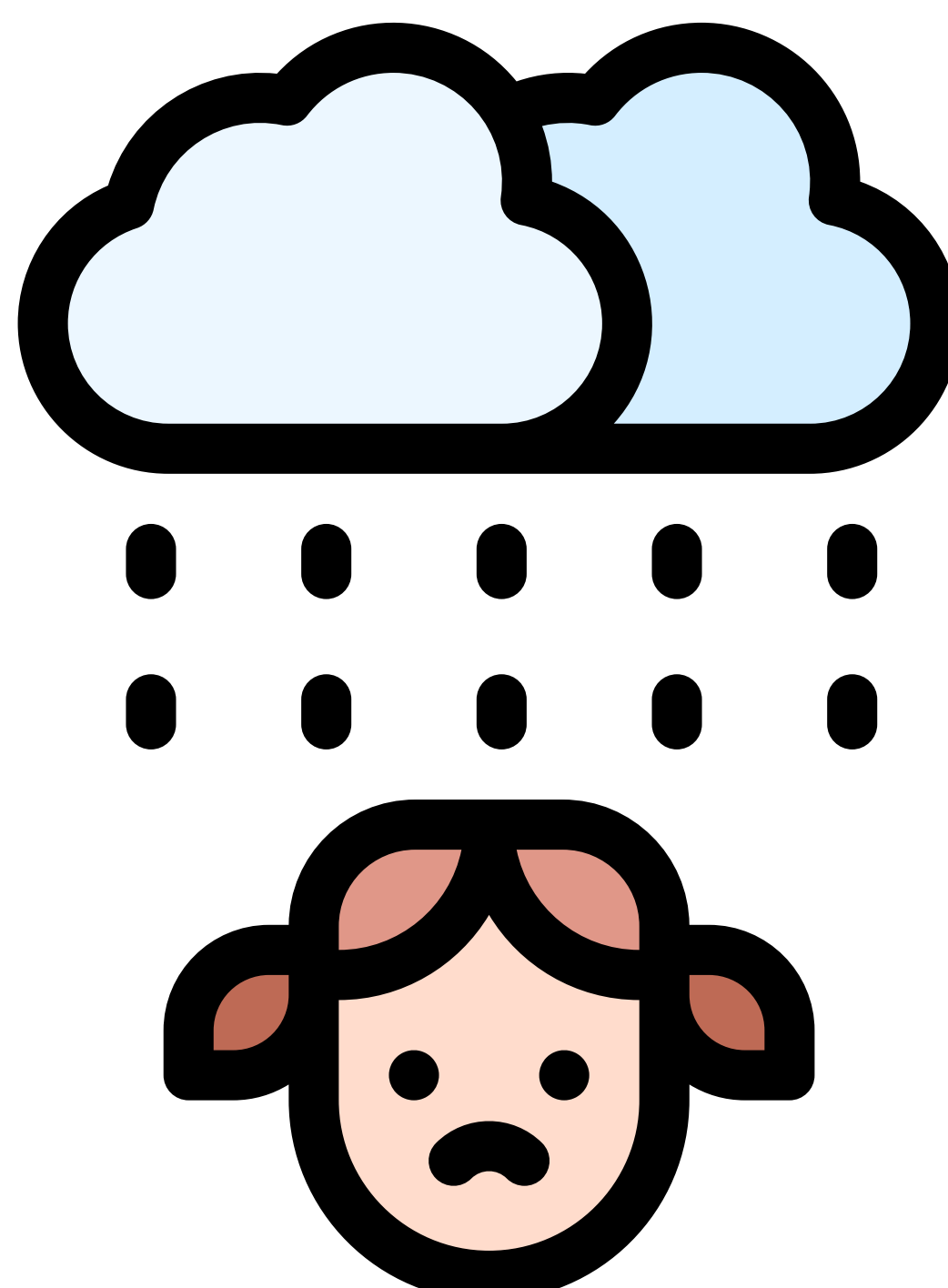
Criminal exploitation of a child is when a child is manipulated and abused by an individual or group who uses a child (under 18) for criminal activity and may use threats, bullying, violence as well as giving them something, for example, gifts, money, alcohol or drugs, a place to stay, or a sense of belonging, to get the child to become part of a crime or criminal activities. This is abusive and against the law as the child cannot consent to abuse even if they don't feel the situation is harmful to them.

## 6. Child Trafficking

Child trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt, exchange or transfer of control of a child under the age of 18 years for the purposes of exploitation. Transfer or movement can be within an area and does not have to be across borders. Examples of trafficking can include sexual, criminal and financial exploitation, forced labour, illegal adoption, and forced or illegal marriage.

## 7. Neglect

Neglect is a persistent form of harm or abuse. Neglect is where the person or people responsible for looking after a child frequently does not meet the basic needs of a child. This harms the long term physical and mental health of a child. Neglect includes children regularly feeling hungry, cold, unwashed, are left unsupervised and feel unloved. Serious neglect is a risk to life.



## **8. Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation, also called FGM for short, is where a female child's genitalia is cut. The term 'cutting' is also sometimes used. Sometimes girls are taken out of Scotland for this procedure to be carried out elsewhere. This causes long term physical and emotional harm and damage. As a form of violence against women and girls this practice is illegal in the UK.

## **9. Forced Marriage**

Forced marriage is where a child is or feels they are or were being forced to marry someone without wanting to and feeling pressure to do this. The child may be taken out of Scotland to undergo a marriage ceremony against their will. This can cause emotional harm and put the child at risk of physical or emotional abuse. It can cause the child to become isolated, and it can impact on their relationships with their family and their wider community. Forced marriage should not be confused with arranged marriage which is where individuals give their consent.

More information about types of harm is available on the CELCIS website.

[www.celcis.org](http://www.celcis.org)





## What might happen if someone is worried about a child in Springburn Academy?

Anyone who is worried about a child and thinks they might not be safe should pass on this information to the CP Coordinator of the school or the Head Teacher whose role it is to protect children. The CP Coordinator will follow Glasgow City Council Child Protection protocols and will appropriately contact any other relevant agencies such as social work and/or Police Scotland. This is to make sure that services can work together with parents and carers to keep children safe from harm and take any action needed to further support the young person. Social workers, health professionals and the police will gather information to help decide whether further investigation is needed.

It's possible that some parents and carers might find that some of the information provided in this guide is difficult and distressing as it may raise memories about past events. It is important to consider exploring the information contained in this guide with another person you trust to support you, for example, a relative, friend or support worker.

Reading about harm, abuse and neglect is difficult and may be upsetting. There are services who can help you. If you are worried, need support or would like to talk to somebody, call

Samaritans on 116 123  
Breathing Space on 08000 28 22 33.  
Parentline on 08000 28 22 33  
Children 1st for advice and support.

