



Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

School Values:

Respect, Responsibility, Equality, Success

We hope you find this policy useful and informative



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Recently Updated August 2026

Previous Update: August 2025

School Aims:

Inverclyde Academy promotes high expectations and standards which create an inclusive environment, where all are encouraged to strive to achieve their full potential. The positive ethos across the school and a high degree of commitment shown by our staff, our young people and our parents, as well as the wider community, allow the young people of Inverclyde Academy to achieve their full potential, both academically and socially. Our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Equality and Success underpin the life and work of the school.

Rationale

Child protection and safeguarding are fundamental legal duties of care that we hold towards every young person who attends Inverclyde Academy. They are the responsibility of all staff, working collaboratively and with shared clarity to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all young people in our care. The definitions, principles and procedures in place enable us to fulfil our roles effectively, with an understanding of national legislation as well as our own community contexts. Upholding our responsibilities in child protection and safeguarding means looking out for the welfare of the young people we work with on a daily basis, advocating for them when necessary, and supporting them to thrive and achieve their full potential in life.

Aims of the Policy

This policy sets out the procedures in place in Inverclyde Academy to protect and safeguard those in our care. It clarifies definitions of Child Protection and Safeguarding, as well as highlighting how these principles are imbedded in our school values. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of all staff and contains an appendix detailing step-by-step actions that must be taken in the event of disclosures or concerns regarding child protection and safeguarding.

What is meant by Child Protection and Safeguarding?

This policy makes use of the definitions and approaches outlined in Education Scotland's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (2023).

Child Protection:

Child protection refers to the processes involved in consideration, assessment and planning of required action, together with the actions themselves, where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm. Child protection guidance provides overall direction for agencies and professional disciplines where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm.

Safeguarding:

This 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 outcomes. Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or being 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 protected, 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 and suchlike.

(Education Scotland, 2023)

Ensuring Wellbeing:

All pupils have an allocated Pupil Support teacher to monitor and track their wellbeing. This relationship begins as part of the primary transition programme where they meet their Pupil Support Teacher regularly via our transition's experiences.

Throughout the session, every pupil completes a Wellbeing Tracker. This gauge's pupil wellbeing against the eight wellbeing indicators (SHANARRI). For those requiring additional support, this will be met with targeted or intensive interventions, all accessed through self-referral, parent/carer referral or through referral from a member the support team.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Child Protection Officer, Child Protection Co-ordinator and Pupil Support Staff keep up to date with legislative procedures and changes, which are discussed and taken forward with the whole school staff at scheduled in-service days.

Arrangements for safeguarding and child protection are reviewed regularly to reflect national and council legislation. Safeguarding and child protection guidance is shared with staff on an annual basis during our August in-service day. Any amendments or updates to the policy are highlighted and issued to staff electronically. All supply and temporary staff are issued with a copy of the policy as part of their welcome pack to the school. Information is shared with pupils through assemblies and PSE lessons.

The Child Protection coordinators photographs are shown at the front entrance, at reception and other areas around the school. This means that everyone in the school know who the CP coordinators are. An information leaflet is also provided to parents/carers as well as updated on the school website.

All staff are aware that any concerns regarding safeguarding should be communicated to a member of the SLT or pastoral team as soon as possible and any child protection concerns should be passed on to the Child Protection Coordinator. All concerns will be logged on pastoral notes on Click and Go and appropriate actions taken in consultation with relevant services.

The Child Protection coordinator roles within the school are as follows:

Child Protection Coordinator:

Ms Denise Crawford
Head Teacher

**Depute Child Protection and Prevent Coordinator:**

Ms Emma Dornan
DHT Health & Wellbeing



Appendix 1: Procedure Flow-Charts

Responding to a potential Child Protection disclosure or concern

