



# Whinhill Primary School and Nursery Class Bun-sgoil agus Sgoil-àraich Chnoc a' Chonaisg

## Child Protection and Personal Safety Policy

### **Rationale**

Whinhill's school environment is one where the children are safe, trusted, respected and valued, and where everyone's viewpoint is taken seriously with the opportunity to develop intellectually, emotionally and physically. The children are encouraged to feel positive about themselves and develop a sense of identity and pride in Whinhill Primary School and Nursery Class.

### **Aims**

- At all times the child or young person's protection and welfare must come first
- To ensure children have right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously
- To give appropriate consideration to gender, ethnicity, culture, and religious persuasion in all matters and decisions affecting them
- Children and their families have the right to be kept informed throughout any process affecting them
- To work in partnership with parents/carers to promote the welfare of our children
- To build relationships of trust where children, parents and staff are able to raise concerns about safety and welfare in the knowledge that these will be dealt with sensitively.

### **Responsibility of professionals**

Liz Ruddy – Head Teacher - Child protection co-ordinator

Andrea Hunter – Depute Head Teacher – Depute Child protection co-ordinator.

It is the responsibility of professionals to ensure children get the help they need when they need it. Action should be taken in a timely and effective way in order to protect children. All agencies and professionals should work together, assess needs and risks and develop effective plans in order to protect children.

### **Referral Process**

School and Nursery Procedure in the event of a child protection concern:

Any concerns regarding children should be immediately reported to the Head Teacher (Child Protection Co-ordinator) or in her absence the Depute Head Teacher. (Depute Child Protection Co-ordinator).

Any of the following may have taken place:

- A specific incident
- A disclosure made by a child or parent or carer
- Information from a third party
- Adult behaviour or circumstances that may place a child at risk of harm
- Child behaviour or circumstances that may place a child at risk of harm

It is the obligation of all individual members of staff to report any concerns to the Head Teacher, or in her absence the Depute Headteacher. Details of the procedure laid down in Inverclyde's Protecting Children and supporting their Wellbeing policy will then be carried out timeously by the Head Teacher or his/her representative.

If a child alleges they are being abused or you have concerns the child is being abused or is at risk of harm the following procedure should be followed.

- Note what has been said, or note your concerns using appendix 3 'record of concern alert
- Report the allegation or concern to HT
- HT will report to social work or police. School does not need proof only doubt to contact social work for advice.

#### Definitions of harm

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Faltering growth
- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Criminal Exploitation
- Child Trafficking
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Forced Marriage

It has to be remembered that abuse of a child is through mistreatment or neglect of a child by a person caring for the child resulting in injury or harm. This may occur physically, emotionally, sexually or through acts of omission or through witnessing unacceptable behaviour, including use of media etc. Child sexual abuse may be defined as the sexual exploitation of a child who is not developmentally capable of understanding or resisting the contact, or of a child or adolescent who may be psychologically and socially dependent upon the perpetrator.

**See "Inverclyde Protecting Children and Supporting their wellbeing."**

Within Whinhill there is a climate of openness, trust and safety where all adults, individually and collectively, apply their knowledge, skills, confidence and sensitivity to ensure the wellbeing of all young people in our care.