



Gateside Primary School



What is Child Protection?

- Child protection means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect.
- Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a likelihood or significant risk of harm from abuse or neglect.
(National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland 2014)

Guidelines for Child Protection Session 2018/2019 Updated Nov. 2019



Child Protection is everyone's responsibility

All staff in Education Services must be:

- Aware of the arrangements for protecting children.
- Alert to children's needs.
- Clear about their own role in ensuring the safety of children.

Our responsibility goes beyond the definition of child protection.

We have a responsibility to provide education to children to help them protect themselves.

Staff should play a part in the prevention of child abuse and neglect via the curriculum by:

- Raising pupil awareness of risks;
- Developing skills which will help them keep themselves safe;
- Helping them to recognise behaviours in others which may place them at risk; and
- Teaching them how to respond in order to keep themselves safe.

Different Forms of Abuse and Neglect

The following definitions show some of the ways in which a child can be abused but are not exhaustive as individual circumstances of abuse will vary from child to child.

- Physical Abuse – being hit, kick or punched.
- Sexual Abuse – inappropriate sexual behaviour or language by an adult towards a child.
- Emotional Abuse – constantly criticised, ignored, humiliated.
- Neglect – persistent failure to meet a child's basic or physiological needs; not being properly fed, clothed or cared for or poor hygiene.

Additional areas of concern

- Exposure to domestic abuse
- Children displaying sexually harmful or problematic behaviours
- Female genital mutilation.
- Honour based or forced marriage.
- Child Trafficking.
- Child Sexual Exploitation

All staff should be alert to:

- Unexplained but significant changes to patterns of attendance, attainment or behaviours.



- Something the child says, discloses or chooses to confide. Child often take time to seek out and test adults whom they wish to disclose abuse/neglect.
- Concern by other children
- Children and young people living with domestic abuse are at increased risk of significant harm both as a result of witnessing abuse and being abused themselves.

Staff with concerns

Where there is a concern about child abuse, neglect or exploitation staff should:

- Discuss his/her concerns with the Child Protection Co-ordinator immediately (red slip). The CP co-ordinator will decide on an appropriate course of action. (Miss Dunlop)
- Establish with the CP co-ordinator when and how concerns should be recorded/shared including, if and when this information should be shared with parents/carers.
- Ensure they are clear with regards to the establishment policy and procedures.
- Formalise with the Child Protection Co-ordinator what further support the child is likely to need and best this can be met.

Responding to Disclosure / Allegations

Whoever receives the information from the child or other person should:

- Listen carefully, let the child speak.
- Not guarantee confidentiality, whilst explaining the reasons for this.
- Not show disbelief or panic.
- Take the allegations seriously and reassure the child.
- Avoid expressing views on the matter
- Explain that he/she will have to share this information with the Child Protection Co-ordinator.
- **Do not** question the child – **this is the responsibility of agencies trained to carry out investigative interviews with children.** Questions inappropriately phrased could be thought to be suggestive and then lead to evidence being inadmissible in possible future criminal proceedings.
- **NEVER** carry out an investigation or gather any photographic evidence into the allegation- this is not your role.

Reporting Disclosure /CP Concerns

- All instances of disclosure /CP concerns should be reported to the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator **without delay**. (Miss Dunlop, HT)
- If the CP Co-ordinator or DHT are not available, seek advice from either the Senior Manager (Inclusion) or the Head of Service (Education & Youth Employment) as a matter of urgency.

If neither are available please refer to the Phone Tree which is available in the main office.

CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT LIST

If you have any concerns about a pupil please speak to Miss Dunlop, Child Protection Co-ordinator or Mrs Logan DHT immediately. Welfare concerns should be recorded through discussions with HT/DHT and on pastoral notes.

CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR

MRS LOGAN
ACTING HEADTEACHER

