

Fisherton Primary School

and

Early Years Centre

Guidelines for Child Protection/ Safeguarding

Session 2017/2018

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 risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect

(National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014)

Child Protection & safeguarding Children & Young People

Is **Everyone’s** Responsibility

All Education & Youth Employment staff and those working in establishments and/or with children and young people must be:

* Aware of arrangements for protecting children
* Alert to children’s needs
* Clear about their own role in ensuring the safety of all children

Our responsibility goes beyond the narrow definition of Child Protection

We have a responsibility to:

* Provide education to children and young people to help them to protect themselves
* Ensure all staff 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 to keep themselves safe;
* Helping them 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 or Neglect

The following definitions show some of the different 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, kicked 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 psychological needs: not being properly fed, clothed or cared for or poor hygiene.

Additional areas of concern which you should ensure you are aware of and know the signs to look for:

* Exposure to Domestic Abuse
* Children displaying sexually harmful or problematic behaviours
* Female Genital Mutilation
* Honour based or forced marriages
* 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 or young person says, discloses or chooses to confide. Children and young people often take time to seek out and test adults to whom they wish to disclose abuse/neglect
* Concern raised 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 concern about child abuse, neglect or exploitation the staff member should:

* Discuss his/her concerns with the Child Protection Co-ordinator immediately. The Child Protection Co-ordinator will decide on an appropriate course of action. (Gillian McDowell HT)
* Establish with the C.P. 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 how 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 allegation seriously and reassure the child / person.
* Avoid expressing views on the matter.
* Explain that she / he 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 of children. Questions inappropriately phrased could be thought to be suggestive and then lead to evidence being held as 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 concern should be reported to the school’s **Child Protection**

**Coordinato**r without delay. (**Kerry Malcolm** AHT)

Staff members should not discuss these concerns with colleagues.

If the Child Protection Co-ordinator / Head Teacher (Kerry Malcolm) is not available, seek advice from the Child Protection Officer (Maria Galli ~ 01292 612205) If they are unavailable, the Senior Education Manager (Lynn Crossan – 01292 616194) should be contacted as a matter of urgency.

If any member of staff receives information or hears an allegation of abuse or inappropriate conduct against another member of staff, the head of establishment must be informed immediately.

If establishment based staff are unavailable please refer to the intranet or Lync System for authority contact details.

Child Protection numbers and contacts are displayed in the school office.

**Child Protection Coordinator in our school**

**Mrs Malcolm AHT**

CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT LIST

If you have any concerns about a pupil please contact:

In South Ayrshire Council

Maria Galli

Child Protection Officer

01292 612205

maria.galli@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

or

Aileen Valenti

Quality Improvement Manager

(01292 612021)

(07854679608)

aileen.valenti@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

It is everyone’s responsibility to ensure all our children & young people are:

* SAFE
* HEALTHY
* ACTIVE
* NURTURED
* ACHIEVING
* RESPECTED
* RESPONSIBLE
* INCLUDED