



SYMINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Reviewed November 2025 - MG





SYMINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL & EYC

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Symington Primary School and Early Years Centre, we continually strive to keep children safe and protected from harm. This is the responsibility of all. We recognise our legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children, and protect them from harm. We believe that every child, regardless of age, has - at all times and in all situations - a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or emotionally upset or damaged.

This policy addresses how, as a school and early years centre, we ensure that staff are properly trained and that they know how to recognise and respond in all areas of child protection and safeguarding. We have a very important role to play in the sensitive issue of dealing with known and suspected cases of abuse or neglect. It is essential that all staff are aware of the arrangements for protecting children, are alert to children's needs and are clear about their own role in ensuring the safety of all children.

Staff should follow the policy and procedure which has been laid down in South Ayrshire, (Management Guidance on Child Protection, Safeguarding and Wellbeing, July 2024) including annual training, and follow national guidance contained within the policy document 'National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 (amended 2023)', when a case of child abuse is suspected. This policy is based on the South Ayrshire Council Management Guidance on Child Protection, Safeguarding and Wellbeing (July 2024). On an annual basis, we consult with children about how the adults around them keep them safe.

Our policy describes responsibilities and expectations for everyone involved in protecting children. This outlines how we should work together with parents, families and communities to prevent harm and to protect children from abuse and neglect.

Our policy has been revised in light of Getting it Right for Every Child, the West of Scotland Child Protection Procedures, Commissioner for Children Scotland, the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, as amended 2023, and the South Ayrshire Council Management Guidance on Child Protection Safeguarding and Wellbeing 2025, all of which highlight the importance of a child-centred, multi-agency approach to meeting the needs of children and young people.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of all children is always the primary concern
- Protecting children is everyone's responsibility
- Every child should be treated as an individual and has a right to a positive sense of identity
- All children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- All children have the right to express their views on matters affecting them

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Our Child Protection Policy is encompassed within our school vision, values and aims.

OUR VISION

“Take pride in yourself, inspire your learning and work together to become the best you can be” is our vision in Symington Primary and Early Years Centre.

OUR VALUES

Positive, Respectful, Inclusive, Determined and Equity and Excellence are the core values that permeate throughout Symington school community. These help us to focus on our aspirational vision and aims for our school and EYC. (Articles 1, 2, 15 and 28).

OUR AIMS

Our aims are founded on the shared values and ambitions of the school and its wider community.

At Symington Primary School and Early Years Centre we aim to:

- Provide a **safe** and **nurturing** environment **for all** (Article 19)
- Develop **all pupils'** self-esteem and confidence to allow them to reach their full potential (Article 28)
- Recognise and celebrate achievement for **all pupils** within and beyond school
- Encourage children to be actively involved within the school and their own community (Article 11)
- Provide everyone with challenging, motivating, positive and purposeful **learning experiences** (Article 29)

Our aim at Symington is to ensure **all pupils** fulfil their potential as **Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors and Confident Individuals** through engaging fully with school life and embedding our vision and values in our practice.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

There have been significant legislative changes affecting children and young people in Scotland, since the introduction of the Children's Hearing system in the 1960's, including:

- [Getting it Right for Every Child](#)
- [Social Work \(Scotland\) Act 1968](#)
- [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#)
- [The Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
- [Commissioner for Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#)
- [Education \(Additional Support for Learning\) \(Scotland\) Act 2004/2009](#)
- [Children's Hearings \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#)
- [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)
- [Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)
- [The Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- [Child Exploitation and Protection Online \(CEOP\)](#)
- [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#)

WHAT IS CHILD PROTECTION?

Child protection is the safeguarding of children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides for the protection of children in and out of the home.

Please click on the following link to the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 \(updated 2023\)](#):

WHAT IS ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

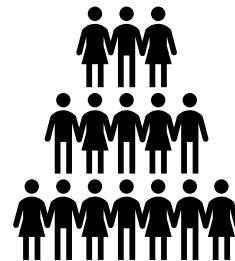
Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Abuse or neglect may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be maltreated at home; within a family or peer network; in care placements; institutions or community settings; and in the online and digital environment. Those responsible may be previously unknown or familiar, or in positions of trust. They may be family members. Children may be harmed pre-birth, for instance by domestic abuse of a mother or through parental alcohol and drug use.

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Neglect
- Female genital mutilation

- Forced marriage

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Health & Wellbeing Across Learning: Responsibilities of All Experiences and Outcomes within Curriculum for Excellence, alongside the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators, summarises how practitioners, pupils, parents and communities must work together in protecting and promoting children's rights, wellbeing and safety. This includes helping children develop in their ability to keep themselves and others safe; and helping them learn how to get help and support if they need it.



All staff will:

- Undergo stringent safe recruitment procedures, including PVG checks
- Have ready access to appropriate, relevant and up-to-date guidance, which tells them what action to take if they are concerned about a child or young person's wellbeing, welfare and safety
- Be trained to help them understand what, how and when to report and share information to keep children safe, and be able to do so (annually in person and on Coast)
- Be clear that a guarantee of absolute confidentiality cannot ever be given to a child or young person
- Cooperate fully with other partner agencies
- Have appropriate support from Child Protection Coordinators, Named Persons, Lead Professionals and Line Managers, when they are concerned about a child or young person
- Take action to respond to disclosures, allegations, suspicions or incidents of abuse:
 - Stay calm and reassuring
 - Observe carefully the child or young person's behaviour and demeanour
 - Listen to what the child says without shock or disbelief
 - Do not apportion blame, make any suggestions or ask any questions
 - Allow the child to talk freely
 - A guarantee of secrecy or confidentiality must not be given to the child
 - The child must be told that the Child Protection Coordinator (CPC) will have to be informed
 - Stress that it was the right thing to tell
 - Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told
 - Record facts immediately afterwards using the exact words spoken; these should be signed and dated
 - Report suspicions or disclosure immediately to the Child Protection Coordinator

CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATORS



The Child Protection Coordinators require appropriate levels of awareness, knowledge and skills within an establishment. These include recognition of neglect, mental health problems, parental alcohol and drug use, under-age sexual activity, child sexual abuse and exploitation, honour-based abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and bullying.

Our Designated Child Protection Coordinator (s) is:



Mrs Kay Shields– Child Protection and Prevent Coordinator



Miss R Smith – Deputy Head Teacher

Depute Child protection and Prevent coordinator

The Child Protection and Prevent Coordinators (CPPC) have both general and particular responsibilities with regard to child protection, including to:

- Record in detail what the staff member has seen and heard and when
- Any signs of physical injury should be described in detail or sketched
- Co-ordinate action within the establishment in relation to specific children about whom concerns have been raised;
- Liaise with other agencies, (e.g. Police, Social Work, Children's Reporter, Health staff)
- On general issues relating to child protection
- Support investigations, Court proceedings, Children's Hearings and case referrals or Significant Case Reviews
- Listen and respond to general concerns raised by staff, children, young people and parents or carers in relation to child protection

- Organise staff briefings and training on child protection and wellbeing, for the 'Specific Contact Workforce' in accordance with the [National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development in Scotland, Scottish Government](#)
- Oversee the planning of any curricular provision designed to give children the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe from all forms of abuse
- Ensure accurate record keeping of all information, related to a child or young person's wellbeing and protection is carefully recorded using a chronology of significant events, together with relevant documentation
- Ensure child protection files and all confidential sensitive and personal information are securely stored in accordance with up-to-date File Management Guidance and the [Data Protection Act 2018](#) and the [General Data Protection Regulation](#)
- Ensure that all child protection chronologies are reviewed at least once every term; and whenever possible, attend all Child Protection, multi-agency meetings and Children's Hearings or delegate the Named Person to do so
- Even when no formal referral has been made to the Health and Social Care Partnership, education notes should be kept in a confidential record in Pastoral Notes on SEEMiS and if relevant an Ayrshare record created

CONFIDENTIALITY

All staff understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the child and staff involved but also to ensure that information being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence. Staff should only discuss concerns with the designated persons or Head Teacher. That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a "need-to-know" basis.

RECORDS AND CHRONOLOGIES

In Symington Primary School and EYC, Child Protection (CP), Care Experienced (CE) or Additional Support Needs (ASN) files must be securely stored separately from a pupil's Educational record (PPR), and clearly labelled on the front as, "Confidential" CE, ASN or Child Protection" with the child's full name and date of birth. A chronology should be at the front of the file and separate sections should be kept to make for easy access to relevant reports. Should this information require to be shared on a multi-agency basis an AYRShare record should be created. In addition, electronic pastoral notes will be held within SEEMiS.

SCHOOL AND EYC PRECAUTIONS

School Buildings and Playground Security



Our school has secure entry; visitors are required to sign in and out, wear visitor badges, are monitored whilst on the premises and never left alone with children

Break times and lunch times are monitored by staff to keep children safe and monitor any visitors to the school grounds during these times

Intimate/Personal Care



Children's dignity will be preserved, and a level of privacy given. The normal process of nappy changing should not raise child protection concerns.

There are no regulations that indicate that a second member of staff must be available to supervise the nappy changing process or personal care to ensure that abuse does not occur; however, where possible, we do ask that staff leave doors open or work in pairs to ensure that they do not leave themselves vulnerable.

Volunteers



Any parent or other person/organisation engaged by the school to work in a voluntary capacity with pupils will be subjected to all reasonable vetting procedures and a disclosure undertaken.

Volunteers supporting on school trips need not be disclosed; however, they should not be left unsupervised with children at any time. Volunteers will be subject to the same code of conduct as paid employees of the school.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF MEMBERS

Where an allegation is made against a member of staff, it must always be taken seriously, and the principles and procedures outlined in this policy must always be followed:

- The person receiving the allegation must inform their line manager or Child Protection Coordinator, who will inform the Director of Education
- Upon receiving the information, the Director of Education will take any necessary action, which may include informing the Police and Social Work services
- Where the allegation is being made against the line manager, Head Teacher or the Child Protection Coordinator, the member of staff receiving the allegation must directly inform the Director of Education

The Director of Education will advise the Head Teacher or Centre Manager, on any decisions:

- Whether to remove the member of staff from direct access to children and young people
- Suspend the member of staff
- Inform the parents or guardians of the child or young person concerned
- Inform the parents of all children and young people, with whom the member of staff has come into contact and to inform the children's reporter, where it is known that the child or young person is 'looked after' and is alleged to have been abused

PREVENT

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

Prevent requires local authorities and departments such as education, to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation.

Prevent helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes.

Every school in South Ayrshire has a Prevent Coordinator and within Symington Primary School the Prevent Coordinators are the Head teacher Mrs Galt, and in her absence the depute head teacher Miss Smith.

The Prevent strategy is promoted within the school through inputs from police partners.

'It is everyone's responsibility to protect children'

If you have concerns that a child is at risk of significant harm

Of abuse or neglect please contact:

South Ayrshire Council's Social Work **Initial Response Team** on:

01292 267675 or call 0800 328 7758 if out of hours.

If the child is at immediate risk: telephone the Police. Dial 999.

Reviewed in November 2025.

The policy will be reviewed again in November 2026.