

The Designated Child Protection Co-ordinator (Designated Person) for Newfield Primary School is :

**Mrs. Laura Horn, Head Teacher**

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**Tel:** 01698 792084

In the event that the Head Teacher is not available the Depute Head Teacher will assume the role,

**Miss Denise Corke – Depute Head Teacher**

### Section 1: Policy Overview and Definitions

#### What do we mean by Child Protection and safeguarding?

##### Child Protection

Protecting a child from 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 abuse or neglect.

##### Safeguarding

There 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 safeguarding.

#### The purpose of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Newfield Primary School recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect children from abuse and neglect as defined in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00450733.pdf>

The overall intention and purpose behind the school's child protection and safeguarding policy is underpinned by the fundamental principles of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989):

#### What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

The Scottish Government's National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (refreshed in 2014) states that abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to act to prevent, significant harm to the child. There are different types of abuse which can be described within four main categories:

- **Physical abuse**
- **Emotional abuse**
- **Sexual abuse**
- **Neglect**

(Further details and definitions can be found in SLC Child Protection Procedure A22)

## Indicators of Risk

The following circumstances are considered to be indicators that a child **may** be at increased risk of harm within their families:

- Domestic abuse
- Parental problematic alcohol and drug misuse
- Non-engaging families
- Children and young people experiencing or affected by mental health problems
- Children and young people who display harmful or problematic sexual behaviour
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Honour based violence and forced marriage
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Sudden unexpected death in infants and children

Further detailed information on all of the above circumstances can be found within Part 4 of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014 (page 113). This can be accessed online at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00450733.pdf>

The above guidance also provides information about ways in which children and young people can come to harm outside of the home and in specific circumstances e.g.

- Child trafficking
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Online and mobile phone safety
- Radicalisation

Further detailed information on all of the above circumstances can be found within Part 4 of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014 (page 139).

Any member of staff who would like further training around Child Protection and Safeguarding should discuss their training needs with the CLPL Co-ordinator and reflect this in their Professional Learning.

## Section 2: Policy Objective and Statement of Adherence

Newfield Primary adheres to South Lanarkshire Council's Policy Statement on Wellbeing and Care (Updated 2013) and Child Protection Operating Procedures A22. All staff should be familiar with these documents and refer to them for further detailed information and guidance. (Documents available on SLC intranet)

Everyone in our school shares an objective to safeguard and protect children by;

- Providing a safe environment for children to learn in.
- Supporting children's development in ways that will foster a sense of self-esteem and independence.
- Identifying and responding to children in need of support and / or protection.
- Working in a manner that places the safety and wellbeing of pupils at the forefront.

## School Commitment to Safeguarding

At Newfield Primary School, we will

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Ensure all children have effective means of communication with more than one adult in the school.
- Give opportunities for class or group discussions of thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere of trust, acceptance and tolerance.
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE / Citizenship, which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.
- Ensure all aspects of school life including Risk Assessment, Curriculum Design, Information Sharing etc. take account of the best interests of pupils at all times.

### Section 3: Action Guidance for all Staff

#### What to do if you have general concerns about a child

If a member of staff is worried about a child, they should report their concerns to the Child Protection Coordinator who will record this information on a Chronology of Significant Events in SEEMIS Pastoral Notes and will follow South Lanarkshire procedures on reporting Child Protection Concerns.

If this information is more of a Care and Welfare issue, the Head Teacher will decide on the appropriate course of action. This may be:

- To monitor the situation
- To discuss the problem with the parent
- To discuss with the parent and with their consent contact another agency
- To refer to the reporter or another agency or seek advice of Social Work Resources.

Information must be accurate as possible. If a member of staff has a concern, it should be noted in SEEMIS Pastoral Notes. This may also be used to monitor a situation and to help identify any emerging patterns.

The SLT will complete a **Notification of Child Protection Concern** if referring to another partner agency. This should also be sent to the local authority Child Protection Officer.

#### What if a child makes a concerning disclosure?

##### 1. Action Points for All Staff

- Immediately report any grounds for concern to the Head Teacher.
- If the HT is unavailable, report to the Depute Head Teacher
- Do not wait to gather evidence
- Do not keep information secret
- Do not discuss the matter with others
- Follow the guidance given by the Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher
- You must provide a handwritten record of the incident.
- You must date and sign the record of the incident.
- Under NO circumstances discuss your concerns with parents / carers unless instructed to by SLT.

##### 2. Supporting the Child

When a child is disclosing abuse, a member of staff should respond in the following ways.

- Listen and observe with care.
- Treat the allegation in a serious manner
- Reassure the child that he/she is right to tell
- Do not give a guarantee of confidentiality or secrecy.
- Do not ask leading questions
- Seek clarification using **open-ended questions** only.
- Do not interrogate the child.
- Do not show disbelief or shock.
- Do not introduce personal or third-party experiences of abuse.
- Avoid displaying strong emotions
- **As soon as possible**, record the conversation using the words of the child and any questions or comments made by yourself.

##### 3. Action points for Head Teacher (or DHT in the absence of the HT)

- Act promptly
- Treat the grounds of concern as a priority action.
- Consider the immediate needs of all children involved.
- Gather information and if appropriate seek clarification (not proof).
- Ask staff to record all relevant information

- Immediately report the grounds for concern to the duty social worker at Hamilton Social work (01698 455400) and follow any instructions given.
- Immediately report a medical emergency to the medical services and ensure first aid if required.
- If appropriate, contact the police.
- Alleged involvement of staff in child abuse should be reported to the Child Protection Officer, Education Resources.
- Record (on the same day) the grounds for concern and action taken using Notification of Child Protection Concern Form.
- Send the report and copies as detailed on the form.
- Co-operate fully with all statutory agencies that may become involved.
- Support the child or children involved as necessary and appropriate.

#### **4. Co-operating**

Education staff should co-operate fully with enquiries, investigations and support plans as directed by the HT and Education Resource Staff. Staff should provide reports, attend case discussions, case conferences and reviews as required.

#### **5. What happens to the child and family?**

Once enquiries have been completed, this may include participation in an IRD, one or more of the following might happen:

- No further action.
- Support or advice offered to the family.
- Referral to another agency or service.
- Referral to an appropriate legal agency such as the Children's Reporter.
- Where Child Protection concerns are identified, a multi-agency meeting will be held to decide the best way to protect the child and support the family.

### **Section 4: Additional Safeguarding Procedures**

All adults working with or on behalf of children have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Education staff have a responsibility to report suspicions of child abuse and have a professional and contractual obligation to report such suspicions.

All staff are required to follow with guidelines and procedures contained within SLC's **Child Protection Operating Procedure A22** which is available on the intranet.

All staff will be informed of their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and the procedures for referring concerns to the Designated Person – Head Teacher. This will take the form of annual Child Protection Training in August or during staff induction meetings at other times of the year.

The designated person for child protection will receive regular training provided by the local authority.

Staff will be supported through opportunities to talk through their anxieties with the Designated Person if required and directed to the employee counselling service if required.

Ensure that a named teacher (Head Teacher) is designated for Looked after Children (LAC) and that an up to date list of children is regularly reviewed and updated.

#### **Additional Guidelines and Procedures**

All staff will be issued with a SLC Child Protection Concertina Leaflet which they should keep accessible for quick reference.

Parents may access the school's child protection procedures via the school handbook or website.

Records of any concerns regarding a child's safety will be kept on SEEMIS in Pastoral Notes. Any written information will be kept in the Child Protection folder for the child. This will be kept in the Head teacher's office in a locked cabinet.

The school recognises that it does not have the responsibility to investigate cases of suspected child abuse.

Staff will co-operate with relevant external agencies in any enquiries regarding child protection matters, including representation at case conferences, core groups and multi-agency planning meetings.

Parents will be advised of the intention to refer to Social Work and their views and co-operation sought, unless we have good reason to believe that to do so would place a child at greater risk of harm.

All staff will make it clear to any child disclosing information that they cannot guarantee confidentiality, but they will only pass the information on to the people that can help them.

Information concerning children at risk will be shared with all members of staff on a "need to know" basis. The Designated Person will make a judgement in each individual case about who needs and has a right to access particular information.

Where there are concerns about a child, a teacher may be asked to keep a log of observations. This will be kept securely, separately from generally accessible pupil and class records. The Head Teacher will transfer this information to Click and Go Pastoral Notes and be responsible for maintaining chronologies if required.

All records are subject to General Data Protection Regulations (2018).

### **Staff and Volunteer Recruitment**

Staff working in Newfield Primary have been part of South Lanarkshire's recruitment and selection procedures. They have been checked by the PVG system in place at point of employment. All volunteers coming to school to help with activities, after school clubs or outings should have current PVG certificates. A register of all volunteers is maintained by the school.

### **Attendance and absence procedures.**

Each child's attendance is recorded on the SEEMIS system for registration. At any time SMT and office staff can obtain a summary of a child's attendance. If there are any concerns regarding a child's attendance or absence, the class teacher should speak to the SMT.

In the first instance, parents are notified by letter accompanied by this summary and asked to support the school in ensuring regular attendance at school. Should the situation continue to be a concern the parents will be invited to an interview with the SMT. If this does not improve the child's attendance and attendance continues to fall, the Head Teacher will make a referral to the Children's Reporter.

The school has clear procedures for the notification of absence and parents are reminded of this on a regular basis through newsletters. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school by telephone on the first morning and to keep the school office updated on any absences. A note is made by the office staff and details are entered into the absence file. The office staff inform the class teacher of parental calls and relevant information. Staff complete a pupil register twice a day (in the morning and after lunch) and any absences are sent to the office for recording. Any absences that occur and the parent or guardian makes no contact with the school are recorded as unauthorised and the office staff telephone or text the parent or guardian to make sure that the child is safe.

On occasions when no contact is made with the parents, emergency contact details will be used. If there is a Child Protection or Care and Welfare concern the relevant agency will also be contacted. This will normally be Social Work Resources at Brandon Gate in Hamilton. (01698 455400).

### **Responsible User Agreement**

Annually the school sends out information to parents regarding the use of the internet and photographic images of the children. Parents are asked to sign the accompanying forms to give permission for their children to use the internet safely within school and that photographic images may be used for educational purposes.

Children are given guidance on the safe use of the internet and are directed to the potential dangers of putting personal details onto the web as part of the Personal Safety element within our Health and Wellbeing Programme.

### **Mobile Phones**

Children are asked not to bring or use their mobile phones during school time. If they need to bring them to school, they must be switched off and kept in school bags. Mobile phones are not allowed to be taken into the playground. Where a mobile phone is seen within school, it will be taken from the child and held securely at the school office until the end of the school day. Where appropriate, parents will be informed and asked for their support in helping keep their children safe. Children should not take photographs or video footage of any school activities on personal mobiles without permission from staff.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints or concerns that a member of staff has been involved in and/or any form of child abuse must be reported without delay to the Head Teacher ( or if the head is the subject of the suspicion or complaint, the report should be to the Executive Director Education Resources or Head of Education (Inclusion).

The Head Teacher would undertake preliminary enquiries in terms of the appropriate disciplinary procedure.

The Education Officer (Head of Area) would be informed and would agree an appropriate course of action with the Head Teacher. South Lanarkshire's procedures will be followed by Education Resources.

**Date of last review and reprint: June 2023**

**Will be reviewed annually and updated where required.**

**Leadership**

**Equity**

**Achieving**

**Resilience**

**Nurture**