



Stonehouse Primary School
Child Protection Position Statement



Rationale and Shared Vision

At Stonehouse Primary School, we believe that every child has the fundamental right to grow up in a caring, safe, and nurturing environment. The protection of our children is of paramount importance and is the foundation upon which all learning and wellbeing are built. We are committed to working collaboratively with all external agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, ensuring that our practices align with national guidelines and South Lanarkshire Council Operating Procedure A22.

Our shared vision is one where all children and young people in Lanarkshire are protected from abuse and harm, residing in an environment where their rights are respected and upheld. We recognise that safeguarding is a collective responsibility; therefore, we work closely with the Chief Officers and Child Protection Committees of North and South Lanarkshire to ensure that our school remains a safe haven for every learner.

Aim and Implementation

The driving principle of our safeguarding culture is: "It's everybody's job to make sure I'm alright." To ensure this is translated into daily practice, all staff members undergo mandatory Child Protection training as part of the annual induction and checklist procedure led by the Head Teacher every August. This training ensures that every adult in our building is equipped with the knowledge and confidence to intervene when a child's wellbeing is at risk. Furthermore, all staff have immediate access to updated procedural guidelines and resources, ensuring that the path from concern to action is clear and efficient.

Linking to GIRFEC and Wellbeing

Our safeguarding procedures are inextricably linked to the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework. By focusing on the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators—specifically ensuring children feel Safe, Nurtured, and Respected—we create a culture of vigilance. By placing the child's voice and safety at the centre of our decision-making, we ensure that our interventions are proportionate, timely, and focused on the best outcomes for the child.

Roles and Responsibilities

Every employee at Stonehouse Primary School has a clear responsibility to bring any concerns regarding the care or welfare of a child to the immediate attention of the Head Teacher (the Designated Child Protection Coordinator). Staff are directed never to ignore suspicions of abuse or neglect.

Updated August 2025 from original (August 23)

In the event that a child makes a direct disclosure or allegation, staff are trained to follow a strict protocol:

- **Maintain Calmness:** Provide a steady and reassuring presence for the child.
- **Reassurance:** Ensure the child knows they are being taken seriously and that they have done the right thing by speaking up.
- **Avoid Leading Questions:** Listen actively without investigating or prompting specific answers, allowing the child to speak in their own words.
- **Accurate Recording:** Document the disclosure verbatim, including the date, time, and signature of the staff member.
- **Transparency:** Inform the child of the next steps without promising "secrets," maintaining the trust necessary for the safeguarding process to proceed.
- **Immediate Reporting:** All concerns or allegations—whether against a family member, a peer, or a member of staff—must be reported to the Head Teacher without delay.

By adhering to these rigorous standards, Stonehouse Primary School ensures we are fulfilling our duty to keep children safe and supported.