

St. Canice Primary School and Nursery Unit Dungiven

Child Protection Policy 2023-2024

Information for Parents/ Carers



Children come first

Policy Statement

It is our policy to safeguard the welfare of the children in our care by endeavouring to protect them from all types of abuse.

Principles

The following form the basis of our Child Protection Policy

- ◆ Children should be listened to and taken seriously
- ◆ In any incident the child's welfare must be always paramount.

This overrides all other considerations

- ◆ A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families.

Where there is conflict, the child's interest must always come first.



Categories of Abuse

There are five main kinds of abuse, the following are details and possible symptoms

Neglect Abuse, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Exploitation—Child Sexual Exploitation

Neglect Abuse

The confirmed or suspected, persistent or significant neglect of a child.

Symptoms may include :Hunger, inadequate clothing, constant lack of cleanliness and regular tiredness or failure to thrive.

Physical Abuse

Confirmed or suspected deliberate injury to a child or wilful neglectful failure to prevent physical suffering to a child.

Symptoms may include unexplained injuries, bruises or burns, especially repeated ones. There may be a refusal to explain these and or fear of physical contact.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional ill treatment or rejection.

Symptoms may include delays in physical, mental and emotional development and unexplained fears.

Sexual Abuse

Confirmed or suspected sexual exploitation of a child. Where anyone touches a child's private parts in a way which makes the child feel unhappy and embarrassed.

Symptoms may include an unusual awareness (evidenced in behaviour, conversation or in artwork) or affection expressed sexually which appears inappropriate to the child's age. The child may, on the other hand, appear unusually withdrawn and unhappy.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of sexual abuse, where young people are exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliation and degrading sexual assaults. Child Sexual Exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of

Technology.

Staff Conduct and Training

The conduct of staff towards the children must be above reproach at all times.

In safeguarding the welfare of the child staff must never abuse their position of trust.

The school has a staff code of conduct and all members of the teaching and non-teaching staff adhere to this policy.

All staff have been trained by the Designated teacher and this training will be updated regularly



Summary of Procedures for Parents/Carers who wish to refer a Safeguarding Concern

I have a concern about my/a child's safety

I can talk to the class teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the designated teacher for child protection
Mrs E Gribbin
or
Deputy Designated Teachers
Mrs F Delargy or Mr S Mc Guigan

If I am still concerned,
I can talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Mr Tom Nelis

At any time a parent can talk to a social worker at the
Gateway Team Tel: 02871314090
or the PSNI Public Protection Unit
Tel : 0845 600 80000

If I am still concerned,
I can contact the
NI Public Services Ombudsman
Tel 0800 343 424

Implementation of Procedures

The designated teacher for child protection in St. Canice is
Mrs E Gribbin
In her absence Mrs F Delargy or Mr S Mc Guigan will assume responsibility for child protection matters.

School Commitment

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 PDMU which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.

A detailed Child Protection Policy document is available on request from the school office (02877741457) or the school website. www.stcanicepsdungiven.com