

TILDARG PRIMARY SCHOOL



SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

A SUMMARY FOR PARENTS

September 2024

The Safeguarding Team at Tildarg Primary School

Mrs L. Moody (Principal)

Miss J. Wright (Designated Teacher)

Mrs C. McClay (Deputy Designated Teacher)

Mr F. Crawford (Chair of the Board of Governors)

Mrs D. Hunter (Designated Governor for Child Protection)

Child Protection Ethos at Tildarg Primary School

The staff at Tildarg Primary School have the primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. We will carry out this duty through our safeguarding and child protection policy and our other pastoral care policies, which aim to provide a secure and caring environment, conducive to learning and to the development of self esteem in which all members of the school feel respected, valued and supported. We will also seek to protect our pupils by helping them learn about and recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills that they need to keep themselves safe.

The purpose of the following procedures is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school and who is associated with it, has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse of a child is suspected. The care, welfare and safety of every child is our paramount consideration.

Categories of Abuse

"Children may be abused by a parent, a sibling or other relative, a carer, an acquaintance or a stranger, who may be an adult or a young person. The abuse may be the result of a deliberate act or a failure on the part of a parent or carer to act or to provide proper care, or both."

Definitions of abuse are extracts taken from 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2016)'

Abuse can take many forms:

Neglect

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. Children who are neglected often also suffer from other types of abuse.

Physical Abuse

Physical Abuse is deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Exploitation

Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking. It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can be sexual in nature.

Domestic Violence and Abuse:

Domestic violence and abuse can have a profoundly negative effect on a child's emotional, psychological and social well-being. A child does not need to directly witness domestic violence to be adversely affected by it.

Domestic violence is threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member.

Bullying

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school. All staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim and to discipline the bully. Any complaint by parent that their child is, or may be, being bullied will be fully investigated by the staff.

How a parent can raise a child protection concern:

I have a concern about a/my 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 (Miss J Wright) or the Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs C McClay).



If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal (Mrs L. Moody).



If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors (Mr F. Crawford, c/o Tildarg Primary School, 6 Tildarg Road, Ballyclare. BT39 9JU).



If I have exhausted the above pathway, I can contact the N.I Public Services Ombudsman. (0800 343 424)



I can also talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team (0300 1234 333) or the PSNI Central Referral Unit (028 9025 9299).

*The Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy can be found on the school website or a copy can be obtained from the Principal.