

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse by those looking after them.

The Children Order

The central trust of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, which came in to effect on 4th November 1996, is that the welfare of the *child must be the paramount consideration*, and it is this essential principle which underpins the advice by which we work.

The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child, and the welfare of each child is our paramount consideration. The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school, and we know that some forms of child abuse are also a criminal offence.

What is Child abuse?

We use the following definition:

Neglect – the persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical – physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

Sexual – The sexual exploitation of a child or young person.

Emotional – persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child.

In Gaelscoil na mBeann we believe that an ethos of caring permeates all our activities.

- All our staff and volunteers have been subject to appropriate background checks.
- All non-teaching staff are informed of school procedures regarding child protection issues.
- Designated Teacher is :Emma Louise Leathem
- Deputy Designated Teacher is: Niall Loughran.
- All children who leave at other than normal dismissal times must be collected from the office.
- Written permission is required before a child can leave the school.
- Children are accompanied safely off the school premises.
- Children are encouraged to report any incidences of bullying. These are dealt with promptly.
- External classroom doors shut at 9.15 am.

Mobile Phones

Pupils are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones into school. If a parent needs to contact a pupil urgently – please ring the school and the message will be given to the child.

Photographs/Videos

Written permission from the parent/guardian will be sought at the beginning of each school year.

Intimate Care

Written permission from the parent/guardian will be sought at the beginning of each school year. The dignity and privacy of the child is to be preserved at all times.

Vetting Procedures

All parent volunteers have been vetted in accordance with current legislation.



Parents may request a copy of the Child Protection Policy from the school office.

If you have a concern, please follow the procedure as stated below:

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/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors

At anytime I can talk to the Social Worker or Police

The Designated Teacher is a Senior Member of Staff who is responsible for liaising with Trust Child Care Services and other agencies on individual cases of suspected child abuse or where more general concerns exist about a child.

CONTACTS AND HELPLINES

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline
24 hours call free
0800-800500

Childline UK
Freepost 1111
London N1 0BR
Tel: 0800-1111 (free)

PSNI Public Protection Unit
0845 600 80000

Gaelscoil na mBeann
139a Newcastle Rd
Kilkeel
BT34 4NL

Phone:

02841258418

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**Child Protection & Safeguarding
Children**

Parental Guide