

DROMORE NURSERY SCHOOL



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



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CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

The overriding concern of every caring adult must be the safety of the child. The problem of child abuse belongs to everybody; it is the responsibility of every professional. Child abuse cannot be over looked. Child Abuse may be a criminal offence; therefore, we are not free of our obligations.

In the circular 1997/4 D.E.N.I. REFERS TO "Co-operating to Protect Children" which categorizes child abuse under the headings: neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

- **Neglect:** the act or likely 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 injury:** actual or likely deliberate physical injury to a child, or wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering to a child;
- **Sexual abuse:** actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child. The involvement of children and adolescents in sexual activities which they do not

truly comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate the social taboos of family roles;

- **Emotional abuse:** actual or likely persistent or significant emotional ill treatment or rejection resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child. All abuse involves some emotional ill treatment. This is where it is the main or only form of abuse.

When a member of staff in Dromore Nursery School has a concern about a child, or is the recipient of a disclosure, under any of the above headings, he/she must act promptly.

Procedures to be followed in the event of suspicion of child abuse:

Child makes a disclosure to staff member or staff member has a concern about child either as a result of one observation or many observations over a period of time. Staff member does not investigate.



1. Staff member refers matter to designated teacher (Principal), discusses with designated teacher, make full notes.



2. Designated Teacher (Principal) plans course of action and ensures that a written record is made. In the absence of the Principal the matter will be referred to the Class Teacher.

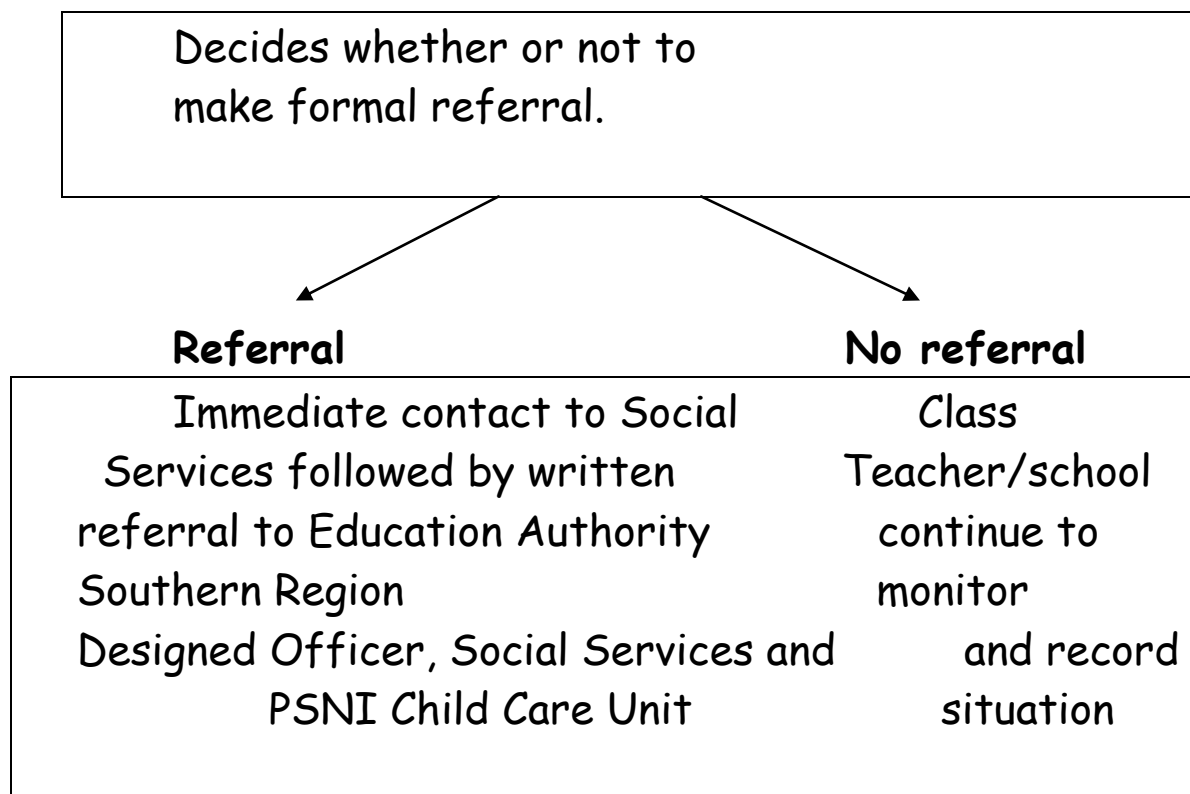


3. Designated teacher checks the child's record to see if there is current or history of Social Services involvement.

YES

NO

Designated teacher contacts The named Social Worker for Informal discussion/advice. As a result designated teacher	May seek clarification from Education Authority Designated officer.
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STAFF LIST

Mrs M.Alexander - Chairman of the Board of Governors

Mrs S.Beattie - Principal (Designated Teacher)

Mrs S Chambers - Class Teacher

(Deputy Designated Person)

Miss J.Baxter - Nursery Assistant

Mrs R. Ogle / Mrs E.Bradfield - Job Share

Nursery Assistants

Mrs J. Russell - Secretary

Mrs A.Chambers - Caretaker

Mrs C Knox/Miss N Clarke - Special Needs Nursery Assistants

Mrs P Hamilton - Music Teacher

COMPLAINT ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL

In the event that a complaint of abuse is made about the Principal: Report to the Class Teacher who will refer the complaint to the Chairman of the Board of Governors

COMPLAINTS

If the school receives a complaint against a member of staff the Principal must be informed immediately and the Education Authorities Southern Region complaints procedure initiated. In the event of the complaint being about the Principal the Class Teacher will immediately contact the Chairman of the Board of Governors and the Education Authorities Southern Region complaints procedure initiated.

"Every child has the fundamental right to be safe at school, and every parent has the right to expect that their child's school will do all in its power to keep them safe."

John McFall
Education Minister N.I 1998

For further information refer to D.E.N.I. Circular
1997/4

Toilet Accidents

Naturally many children of nursery school age will have occasional toilet accidents, spills, vigorous water play or outside messy play and have to be changed. In these cases we operate the following policy.

1. The member of staff assisting the child must tell another member of staff that she is taking a child to be changed.
2. Where at all possible the child should be encouraged to change his/her own pants/trousers with the minimum of help.
3. As far as possible the member of staff should remain outside the toilet cubicle while supervising the child.
4. If the child is soiled some assistance will be necessary and this should be carried out as quickly and sensitively as possible. If a child refuses to be changed out of wet or soiled clothes the parent or one of the other emergency numbers will be contacted so that the child can be changed by the parent or taken home.

Parents who are unhappy with the above procedure may make their objections known to the Principal. In the event of their child having a toilet accident they will be contacted and asked to take the child home.

DROMORE NURSERY SCHOOL

Name of
Child _____

I have read, understand and agree with the Child
Protection Policy.

I give permission for my child to be changed
when needed by a member of staff.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature:

Date: _____



**CHILD PROTECTION IS EVERYONES JOB
AND THE RIGHT OF EVERY CHILD.**