

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

SUMMARY
2024-25



The full policy can be accessed on our school website or by request from the school office.



Child Protection is Everyone's
Responsibility!

Greenisland Primary School:

028 90862940

- Chair of Governors: Mr Neil Buchanan
- Principal: Mrs Falls
- Designated Governor for Child Protection:
Mr Stanley Goudie
- Designated Teacher : Mrs Beattie
- Deputy Designated Teachers:
• Mrs McComb and Mr Johnston

If you have ANY issues regarding
child protection or have any
concerns regarding the safety or
well being of any child in our school
please **DO NOT HESITATE** to
contact us immediately!

Members of the team have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of pupils within the school and these are detailed in our full child protection policy.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY & PROCEDURES

Our Commitment

In Greenisland Primary School we have a pastoral responsibility towards the young children in our care and by law (The Children's Order 1995) must take all reasonable steps to safeguard and promote the children's safety and well-being. The purpose of the following procedures on Child Protection is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school - teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers - has clear guidance on the action that is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The over-riding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare, and safety of the child. The welfare of each child is of paramount consideration.

Key Principles:

- The child or young person's welfare is paramount;
- The voice of the child or young person should be heard;
- Parents are supported to exercise parental responsibility and families helped stay together;
- Partnership;
- Prevention;
- Responses should be proportionate to the circumstances;
- Protection; and
- Evidence based and informed decision making.



All staff at Greenisland Primary School are trained annually and accept their responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of our pupils. All children at Greenisland Primary School are regularly reminded about who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns. It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.

Key Contacts:

Single Contact for Children's Services Referral:

0300 1234 333

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Out of Hours Emergency:

08001979995

After 5pm, weekends and bank holidays



NSPCC

08088005000

Women's Aid



FEDERATION
NORTHERN IRELAND

028 9024 9041

What is abuse?

Definition of Abuse

'Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them....' SBNI Policy and Procedures

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 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.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving a child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying - including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones - by a child's peers.

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, and 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. Although 'exploitation' is not included in the categories of registration for the Child Protection Register, professionals should recognise that the abuse resulting from or caused by the exploitation of children and young people can be categorised within the existing CPR categories as children who have been exploited will have suffered from physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or a combination of these forms of abuse.

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.

Parents/Carers raising 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/write to the Chair of Board of Governors

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated/ Deputy Designated Teacher for child protection or the Principal



At any time I can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI Central Referral Unit at IOI.

When a concern is reported to school:

Staff member will complete a Note of Concern on what was reported/observed, **ACTING PROMPTLY.**



Concern is discussed with the Designated Teacher or Deputy if the DT is not available.

Designated Teacher consults with the Principal or other relevant staff before deciding upon action to be taken, always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required advice may be sought from a CPSS officer

Designated Teacher clarifies/discusses concern with child/ parent/carers and decides if a child protection referral is or is not required.



Where appropriate the source of the concern will be informed as to the action taken. The Designated Teacher will maintain a written record of all decisions and actions taken and ensure that this record is appropriately and securely stored.

Throughout the process, the child's safety is paramount.