

Child Protection



Fraserburgh South Park School and Nursery

2023

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

South Park Primary School and Nursery follow Aberdeenshire Council Guidelines in regards to any child protection concerns.

In this policy statement key information is included for all adults working with children in our school and nursery. Detailed policies and procedures, from Aberdeenshire Council, can be found on the *Girfec* Aberdeenshire Website (<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/>) as well as in Policy Booklet 1, 2 and 3 (Head Teacher's Office).

Responsibility of All (Booklet 1 Aberdeenshire Council)

Child protection is the responsibility of all who work with children and families regardless of whether they come into direct contact with children. All workers must be fully informed of their responsibilities in respect of keeping children safe. All services working with children, young people and families are expected to identify and consider the wellbeing of children and to share concerns appropriately.

These guidelines are based on The National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland 2021. The National Guidance provides a framework within which agencies and practitioners can understand and agree processes for working together to support, promote and safeguard the wellbeing of all children.

The national guidance covers the areas below for all staff working in the school.

- [Part 1: The Context for Child Protection](#)
- [Part 2A: Roles and responsibilities for child protection](#)
- [Part 2B: Approach to Multi-Agency Assessment in Child Protection](#)
- [Part 3: Identifying and Responding to Concerns about Children](#)
- [Part 4: Specific Support Needs and Concerns](#)

Child Protection is part of our approach to *Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)*, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Curriculum for Excellence. Every child and young person has the right to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included. They have the right to be listened to and to have their views taken into account. They should expect to get the help they need, when they need it and be able to access help close to where they live.

The purpose of these guidelines is to help protect the children and young people of Aberdeenshire and to build the confidence of staff to work safely with children and to take responsibility for protecting them.

What is Child Protection?

Child protection means protecting a child or young person from abuse or neglect. Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a

likelihood or risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect. Where a child requires protection, a Child Protection Plan is used to detail how a child will be kept safe. Everyone is responsible for Child Protection.

There are circumstances where, although abuse has taken place, formal child protection procedures are not required. For example, the child's family may take protective action by removing the child from the source of risk. Children who are abused by strangers would not necessarily require a Child Protection Plan unless abuse occurred in circumstances resulting from a failure in familial responsibility.

What is Child Abuse and Child Neglect?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or young person. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to act to prevent, a significant harm to a child. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Assessments will need to consider whether abuse has occurred or is likely to occur.

There are four primary categories of child abuse: Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Neglect.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the imposition of inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing a child to feel frightened or in danger or exploiting or corrupting a child. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child; it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is any act that involves the child or young person in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving a child in looking at or in the production of indecent images or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child or young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional needs. Neglect may also result in the child being diagnosed as suffering from non-organic failure to thrive, where they have significantly failed to reach normal weight and growth or development milestones and where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated. In its extreme form a child can be at serious risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation. This can lead to damaging long-term effects such as greater susceptibility to serious childhood illnesses and reduction in potential stature. With young children in particular, the consequences may be life-threatening within a relatively short period of time.

Procedure at South Park Primary and Nursery

It is EVERY person's responsibility to keep children safe from harm or neglect. Any member of staff who notices anything concerning with a child, no matter how small, must report it to the Head Teacher immediately. If the Head Teacher is not available, then it must be reported to the management team.

When a concern is reported to the Head Teacher, staff involved will discuss the most appropriate next step and course of action. This will follow Aberdeenshire Council Guidelines.

The designated child protection officer in school is Miss Carol Irvine, Head Teacher. Any concerns must be reported to her. During the school holidays concerns must be reported to Miss Vanessa Stephen, Early Years Senior Practitioner. Should either not be available concerns should be reported within school to Mrs Claire Taylor, Depute Head Teacher or during the school holidays, Early Years Lead Practitioner's Miss Mairiann Mackie or Lisa Cameron.

All staff are aware that if they have any concerns, they must report it to the child protection officer, EYSP, depute, or if nonavailable, the next most senior member of staff.

Role of Staff

Every member of staff working with children has a responsibility to:

- Help keep children and young people safe and well.
- Be vigilant for signs that children and young people may need support, are at risk, or are suffering from harm and/or neglect.
- Immediately contact the Child Protection Co-Ordinator when they have concerns or hear allegations.
- Contribute to taking action or supporting children and young people following identifications of concerns.

- Ensure their work is carried out in ways that prevent harm to children and young people and maintain safety and wellbeing of all involved.
- Attend establishment-based child protection briefings and training and record this on a suitable Professional Learning Record e.g. MyGTCS or My SSSC
- Attend and complete relevant training. For example, a training schedule is allocated under the headings of Informed Workforce; Skilled Workforce; Enhanced Workforce and Child Protection Officer. Each job role within our school and nursery is identified within these and members of staff must complete all areas to ensure they are skilled within their role and develop their knowledge and skills whilst understanding their responsibility. This must be completed annually or when required.

Staff should record any concerns that children share with them immediately. It should be recorded accurately. No leading questions should be used. Staff should note in detail any injuries that are shared/visible or draw a diagram (no photographs). Staff must make children aware that this information will be shared to keep them safe.

Remember - ANY concerns should be reported to the school.

Contact Details:

Fraserburgh & Surrounding Area Children and Families Team

Duty or Team Manager

14 Saltoun Square

Fraserburgh

AB43 9DA

Tel. 01467 537111

Emergency Out of Hours Number: 03456081206