

## **The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy.**

It is a child's right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.

We have a pastoral responsibility towards the children in our care and should take all reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved. In any incident the child's welfare must be paramount, this overrides all other considerations.

A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the child's interest must always come first.

We are very proud of our Pastoral Care System within Derrychrin Primary School and we are particularly appreciative of the support we receive from our parents/carers. We strive constantly to create an environment in which children feel confident and secure and to that end we have developed a number of link policies and teaching materials that are available to you from the school office.

We operate an 'open door policy' at all times where concerns will be treated with sensitivity and confidentiality.

There is a Code of Conduct for all Staff within the school.

Staff must always be mindful that they hold a position of trust and that their behaviour towards children and young people in their care must be approved.

We have briefly summarised below our policy document on Child Protection to acquaint you of its principle content.

Through our curriculum we help children learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour and we also make them aware of Safeguarding Team they can talk to if they are unhappy or have any problems.

All staff and volunteers undergo an Enhanced Access NI check and are made aware of the Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers.

The welfare of the child is paramount.

At all times, there must be a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach to commitment to protection, support and safeguarding of children from harm.

## **BULLYING**

Staff at Derrychrin P.S. recognise that bullying is also a distressing form of abuse and will not be tolerated. All staff will be vigilant and will implement the strategies from the anti-bullying policy to help prevent this.

It is the policy of Derrychrin PS to educate all our children in an environment in which they themselves feel safe and secure.

## **PROCEDURE**

The following procedures for Child Protection are intended to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in the school, teachers, nonteaching staff and all volunteers have;

- An understanding of the Child Protection Policy & Procedures.
- An understanding of the signs & symptoms of abuse.
- Clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse of a child is suspected.
- Received Child Protection training.
- Undergone a vetting procedure.

All linked policies to Child Protection and Safeguarding are listed below:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Anti-Bullying
- Intimate Care
- Pastoral Care
- Complaints Procedures
- Drugs
- Attendance
- Positive Behaviour Management
- Educational Visits
- First Aid
- Administration of Medication
- Health and Safety
- Critical Incidents
- Online Safety
- RSE
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Supervision of Volunteers and Visitors

**Designated Teacher: Mr Mark O'Neill**  
**Deputy Designated Teacher: Miss Roisin McVey**

## **Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy Summary**



## **Parent's Awareness Leaflet**

We in Derrychrin Primary School have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

We at Derrychrin Primary School strive to create a secure, happy and caring environment in which pupils can learn and develop all their talents. There is a whole school structured approach to Pastoral Care, promoting an ethos that contributes to the care, safety and well-being of all the children in our school

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the welfare of all children is safeguarded and that their safety is preserved.

### **Aims**

We at Derrychrin Primary School acknowledge that along with outside agencies we have a statutory responsibility for the protection of children. It is consistent with the aims and objectives of our school that all staff have a duty to help protect children from abuse or from the risk of abuse.

## **DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE**

Child Abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. They can be abused by those known to them or more rarely, by a stranger.

### **There are different types of Child Abuse.**

#### **Neglect:**

The persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to cause significant harm, e.g. inadequate food, shelter, clothing and supervision.

#### **Emotional:**

The persistent emotional ill treatment of a child eg. Conveying to a child that he/she is worthless, unloved or inadequate. Exposing a child to domestic violence, parental substance misuse or adult mental health problems.

#### **Physical:**

The deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering eg hitting, shaking, confinement to a room or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

#### **Sexual:**

Involves forcing or enticing a child a child to take part in sexual activities eg physical contact or non-contact activities such as looking at inappropriate material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

#### **Sexual Exploitation:**

A form of abuse in which young people (boys or girls) are tricked or exploited into taking part in sexual activity in exchange for something e.g. love, food, alcohol, cigarettes or money.

#### **Domestic Violence:**

Threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation.

## **CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES**

**If a parent has any concerns about their child or another child's welfare or safety, the following procedures may be followed.**

**I have a concern about my child/a 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– Mr M. O'Neill  
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection –Miss R. McVey**

**If Designated Teacher is not available I can talk to the Principal  
Mr C McElroy**

**If I am still concerned I can talk/write to Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr. Paul Mallon**

**If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman  
Tel– 0800 343 424**

**At any time, a parent can talk to a Social Worker at the Gateway Team: Tel– 0800 7837745 or contact the PSNI Central Referral Unit (Tel– 101)**

A full copy of our Child Protection Policy is available on request from School Office and can be viewed on our School Website.

[www.derrychrinps.org](http://www.derrychrinps.org)

Telephone—028 86737456

Email– [info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk)

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The welfare of the child is paramount.

At all times, there must be a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach to commitment to protection, support and safeguarding of children from harm.

Each agency involved must have an understanding of each other's professional values and accept each other's role, powers and responsibilities.

Any actions taken by agencies must be considered and well informed so that they are sensitive to and take account of the child's gender, age, stage of development, religious culture and race.

The right of confidentiality for parents, carers, teachers and children must be respected and information will only be shared in the interests of the child's welfare.

**If a case of child abuse is suspected the following diagram shows the procedures we are required to follow, as described in the DENI publication 'Pastoral Care in School-Child Protection (1999)**

