St John's Nursery Class

Child Protection

Rationale

At St. John's Nursery Class, in line with the agreements outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the best interests of all children within our care is our primary concern when making decisions that may affect them.

All members of staff have a duty of care to protect and support pupils throughout the school day and at other times as appropriate. We believe that all children have a right to feel safe within our nursery, at home and within the wider community. Approaches taken regarding Child Protection are closely linked to the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) policy and the SHANARRI indicators (see below).



Aim

At St. John's Nursery Class, we aim to:

● Develop an ethos where all children are listened to.

● Enhance the skills and knowledge of our learners to enable them to express their thoughts and feelings.

● Support staff with Child Protection (CP) and Safeguarding issues.

● Share information with other agencies and schools (transition) to protect the children in our care.

● Ensure information is managed confidently and in line with national General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

● Inform parents and carers of Child Protection procedures.

● Monitor services both rigorously and continually to improve how and what is done to support children

Roles and Responsibilities

Child Protection Co-Ordinator (Jillian Grosart, Head Teacher)

- Be the main contact for child protection referrals from staff and ensure the procedures in this Standard Circular 57 are followed
- Ensure all staff are informed about child protection through annual in-house child protection training and access to the child protection training calendar
- Engage in appropriate professional learning, including Signs of Safety, and other relevant training specific to their role
- Ensure general information on pupil support and child protection is readily available to parents, staff and pupils
- Liaise with other agencies to support investigations, court proceedings, child supervision requirements and case referrals and attend all related meetings as appropriate
- Ensure meticulous record keeping of all information, related to child welfare and protection using a chronology of significant events, with relevant documentation
- Ensure child protection files are securely stored, with clear protocols for sharing of the information.

Staff

- Ensure they are fully conversant with Revised Standard Circular 57
- Contribute to a proactive ethos, which seeks to minimise the risk of harm
- Share information on an inter-agency basis which is of benefit to a child's wellbeing
- Focus on preventative, early intervention strategies
- Respond effectively and promptly to any concerns, especially of imminent risk to a child
- Contribute to the assessment of a child's needs and necessary support
- Contribute to assessment and recording of all child welfare and child protection concerns, using a chronology of significant events and related documentation

External Agencies

The information should immediately be passed on to the Head Teacher and the Child Protection Coordinator. If the Head Teacher or Child Protection Coordinator is unsure if the concerns warrant child protection action, they may seek advice from the Request for Assistance Team on what course of action, if any, should be taken.

If the HT or DHT are unavailable staff must inform another member of SLT (see Appendix 1). If SLT are not in the school building, contact the HT Jillian Grosart on 07940469291.

Indicators of Concern

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021 – updated 2023) highlights that children and young people can be abused in a number of different ways and provides definitions of abuse against the following non-exhaustive areas of concern:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced marriage

You must inform the HT (or DHT if HT is unavailable)

The CP Co-Ordinator will be responsible for all further action and will notify staff of outcomes as appropriate.

Trusted Adults

Children and young people have a right to be listened to and their voice heard. A child or young person may seek out a trusted member of staff to tell them about a worry or concern. In such situations, the member of staff should:

- Be supportive and assure them you will only share this information with those people who need to know in order to prevent any further harm
- Take time to listen to what the child is saying, without asking too many questions
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell you
- Record in the child's own words what was said
- Sign and date these notes

Appendix 1

Child Protection Statement

St John's Primary School & Nursery Class

Child Protection Statement

The protection, safety and wellbeing of **ALL** our children is of paramount importance to us.

If during your time with us, you observe or a child discloses something of concern to you, please report to our Child Protection Coordinator (Jillian Grosart, Head Teacher). If unavailable please report to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

This QR Code will take you to the form where you must record your concern.

Assessing a Wellbeing and Safeguarding Concern

Responsibilities - ALL Staff

Everyone who comes into contact with children has a responsibility to check that children are safe, and to report if they have any worries about a child.
It is **NOT** the responsibility of that person to wait for further proof, to investigate for themselves or to gather evidence.
Any concerns about the welfare of a child needs to be shared immediately.

Dealing with a Disclosure

1. Listen attentively and take the child seriously—your role is not to judge the truthfulness of their story.
2. Reassure the child that speaking to you was the right thing to do.
3. Clarify what the child is saying without probing for details—ensure you understand their words without conducting an in-depth investigation.
4. Be transparent about what will happen next—no secrets. Let the child know that certain people need to be informed to keep them safe.
5. Document everything as soon as possible, using the child's exact words whenever you can.
6. Report the situation to the Child Protection Coordinator (HT – Jillian Grosart) immediately. If they are unavailable, inform another member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Senior Leadership Team



Jillian Grosart
Head Teacher



Lucy Schöberl
Depute Head Teacher



Barry Murray
Acting Principal Teacher



Siobhan Shaw
Acting Principal Teacher - Nursery



Lauren McCann
Senior Child Development Officer