

## Summary of Our Child Protection Policy

In Sunnylands Nursery School, we consider our children to be entitled to a safe, secure and loving environment, in which they can enjoy the learning experiences provided. Protection of these children is paramount.

Everyone who has direct or indirect contact with children in our nursery – teachers, classroom assistants, secretary, parent, students and volunteers – has a responsibility to promote the children's health and well-being and protect them from harm of all kinds. Children trust and depend on these adults to safeguard them from harm.

Therefore, the overriding concern of all adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child. Although the incidence of abuse must be kept in context, the indicators of possible child abuse must not be ignored by anyone who works in our school and it must be realised that the child has a legal and pastoral entitlement to protection and we all have a role to play in ensuring that this is maintained.

There are five main elements to our policy:

1. Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop
2. Developing and implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse
3. Ensuring we practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children
4. Raising awareness of safeguarding issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe. This may be done through discussions at circle time, use of puppets, "stranger danger" talks etc.
5. Supporting pupils who have been socially or physically harmed by the effects of child abuse, in accordance with his/her agreed safeguarding plan.

## What is Child Abuse?

A child is a person under the age of 18 years as defined in the Children (NI) Order 1995.

Child Abuse occurs when 'a child/young person is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children/young people may be abused in many settings, in a family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or, by a stranger.' (SBNI 2017)

Harm from abuse is not always straightforward to identify and a child or young person may experience more than one type of harm or significant harm.

(Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in NI 2017).

Abuse may take place on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time.

## Categories of Child Abuse:

PHYSICAL ABUSE – is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering.

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.

SEXUAL ABUSE – occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. This may involve physical contact or non-contact activities, which children and adolescents do not fully comprehend and to which they are unable to give informed consent.

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.

**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, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud, child trafficking, or can be of a sexual nature.

**The Safeguarding team:**

- Designated Teacher (DT) for Safeguarding:*
- Deputy Designated Teachers (DDT) for Safeguarding:*
- Designated Governor for Safeguarding Governance:*
- Chairperson of Board of Governors:*
- Deputy Designated Governor for Safeguarding:*

- Mrs Siobhan Morrow*
- Mrs Ruth Lyons and Mrs Alison McQuillan*
- Mr Tony Barclay*
- Mrs Ann Johnston*
- Mrs Siobhan Morrow*

Our policy seeks to ensure a consistent approach by all members of staff, to develop effective partnership with parents and to provide a clear statement to all with regard to how any incident would be addressed. Guidelines relating to incidents of suspected or disclosed child abuse can be found in the full version of our Child Protection Policy, which is available in the School Office. Please also see the School's Fire Safety Policy with regard to Child Protection.

**Reviewing our Child Protection Policy**

The Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually.

**SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN**

(Child Protection)

If a parent has concerns about his or her child or another child's safety, they may take the following action.

I have a concern about my child's/ other child's safety



I can talk to the CLASS TEACHER



If I am still concerned, I can talk to our Designated Teacher for Child Protection Mrs Siobhan Morrow



MRS MORROW



If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection Mrs Ruth Lyons and Mrs Alison McQuillan



MRS LYONS



MRS McQUILLAN



If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Board of Governors c/o Sunnylands Nursery School Mr Tony Barclay



Mr T Barclay



At any time, I can talk to the Social Workers @ Gateway [03001234333](tel:03001234333) Or the Police Care Team, Newtownabbey [101](tel:02893365739) and ask for the Central Referral Unit

Parents may have access to the school's safeguarding policy which is available from the office [Sunnylands Nursery School-028 93365739](tel:02893365739)

## USEFUL CONTACTS

ROLE	WHO	CONTACT NO.
Education Authority	Designated Officer for Child Protection	028 94482223
	Child Protection Support Service (CPSS)	028 95985590 (9am-5pm)
Referral Gateway Service Social Worker	Duty Social Worker	03001234333
PSNI (Public Protection Unit)	Call Handling Office – would re-direct Gillian Kearney (DI)	101
NSPCC – Child Protection Helpline		0808 8005000 <a href="http://nspcc.org.uk/reportconcern">nspcc.org.uk/reportconcern</a>
Child Care	216 Belmont Road, BT4 2AT	028 90652713
Children’s Law Centre	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Philip House, 124-137 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AB	028 90245704
Barnardos	Childcare Office, 542-544 Upper N’ards Road, Belfast BT4 3HE	028 90672366
Save The Children	Popper House, 15 Richmond Park, Belfast, BT10 0HB	028 90431123
Domestic Violence Helpline	<a href="http://www.thehideout.org.uk">www.thehideout.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.womensaidni.org">www.womensaidni.org</a>	0800 9171414
Kidscape	2 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH	0171 730300
UNOCINI		<a href="http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk">www.dhsspsni.gov.uk</a>
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Service		<a href="http://www.thinkyouknow.com">www.thinkyouknow.com</a>
Department Circulars		<a href="http://www.deni.org.uk">www.deni.org.uk</a>