

Child Protection Policy (September 2022) Information for Parents

The Children Order (NI) 1995 places duties on a number of agencies, including the Education Authority acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse.

The emphasis of the Children Order is that the welfare of the child must be of paramount importance and that schools have a pastoral responsibility towards children in their care. Schools are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the welfare of the children is safeguarded and their safety is preserved (Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools 2019).

Child Protection is an essential part of Dundela Infants' School's Pastoral Care Policy. The Governors and Staff believe that our school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child. The school aims to create an environment in which the young child feels happy, secure and confident and is thus able to benefit fully from all aspects of education within the school.

In providing a caring, supportive and safe environment where each person is valued and respected it is hoped that the children will acquire the confidence and skills necessary to keep themselves safe.

The Child Protection Policy develops a framework for an agreed course of action which the school is legally committed to pursue. It has implications for all members of the school community – pupils, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, voluntary helpers, parents and Governors.

Any parents or other adults who assist in school on a voluntary basis will be required to complete an AccessNI form. A list of all those who have been completed this process will be maintained and updated as appropriate.

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 practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers who work with children.
4. Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep themselves safe.
5. Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.

The Safeguarding Team at Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit

Chair of Governors	Mr W Pinkerton
Designated Governor for Child Protection Governance	Mrs K Doyle
Principal	Ms S Wilson
Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DT)	Ms S Wilson
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DDT)	Mrs J Herron
Deputy Designated Teacher (Nursery) (DDT)	Miss M Wilson

Child Abuse

The definitions of child abuse as outlined in the DENI document– Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools (2022) will be used. These cover neglect, physical, sexual, emotional abuse and exploitation.

Role of the Designated Teacher

The Designated Teacher has responsibility for:

- Co-ordinating action in cases of suspected child abuse and reporting to the Education Authority Designated Officer and Social Services, as appropriate.
- Ensuring that all teaching and non-teaching staff are aware of the school's Child Protection Policy.
- Ensuring that a record is kept of any children who are on the Child Protection Register.

In the absence of the Designated Teacher the Deputy Designated Teacher will assume the responsibility of the Designated Teacher.

Parental Complaints Concerning Child Protection

If 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 to the Designated Teacher (Ms S Wilson) or the Deputy Designated Teachers (Mrs J Herron) or (Miss M Wilson -Nursery) for Child Protection



If I am still concerned I can write / talk to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr W Pinkerton



At any time, I can talk to the Duty Social Worker at: -
Gateway, Children's Social Work Service - Tel: **02890507000**
or PSNI Central Referral Unit - Tel: **101**
email:cru@psni.police.uk



If you have escalated your concern as set out in the above flowchart, and are of the view that it has not been addressed satisfactorily, you may revert to the school's complaints policy. This policy should culminate in the option for you to contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) who has the legislative power to investigate your complaint.

If a parent has a concern about a child's safety or suspect child abuse within the local community, it should be brought directly to the attention of the Children's Services Gateway Team.

Complaint Against a Member of Staff

If a complaint regarding child protection is made against a member of staff, the Principal will be informed immediately. The Chairman of the Board of Governors will then be informed. Procedures will be followed as outlined in the DENI document Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools (2022).

If a complaint is made against the Principal the Deputy Designated Teacher will inform the Chairman of the Board of Governors and together they will ensure the necessary procedures are followed.

Parents may view the full Child Protection Policy on the school website www.dundelainfants.co.uk, or alternatively, on request to the School Office.



Ms S Wilson Principal and DT



Mrs J Herron Vice Principal and DDT



Miss M Wilson (Nursery) DDT