

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



All staff and volunteers will undergo an Enhanced Criminal Records Check. The staff and volunteers involved will be made aware of the Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers.

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.

This leaflet is intended as a summary of school procedures relating to safeguarding and child protection. A detailed copy of the school safeguarding policy is available in the school office as are all related policies listed below:

- Anti-bullying
- Discipline
- Photographic
- Internet safety
- Medicines
- Intimate care
- Healthy eating

Parents will give written consent for:

- Personal Care
- Photography/Video Recording
- Use of inhalers
- Intimate care

Designated Teacher:

Mrs Michael



Deputy Designated Teacher:

Mr Bayne



Designated Governor:

Mrs L. Muldoon



Coagh Primary School



Safeguarding Policy Summary 2024/25

We in Coagh 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.

A full copy of our Child Protection Policy can be found on our School Website.

www.coaghprimaryschool.com

Telephone—028 867 37676
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"Happiness, Excellence and Achievement"

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 e.g. 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 e.g. 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.

Exploitation:

The intentional abuse of power and control over a child for personal gain. E.g. child labour or criminal activity.

Child Protection Procedures

If any 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— Mrs Michael

If Designated Teacher is not available I can talk to the Principal Mr Bayne

If I am still concerned I can talk/write to Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mrs Emma McCrea

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— 0300 1234 333) or contact the PSNI Public Protection Unit (Tel: 0845 600 8000)

Summary or Procedures where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school staff.

Key Points

Lead individual learns of an allegation against a member of staff and informs the Chair/Vice Chairperson of the Board of Governors as appropriate.

Guidance on the next steps

Lead individuals then establish the facts, seeking advice from the key agencies as appropriate, usually through informal discussion.

Possible Outcomes

Following on from establishing the facts, seeking advice from Key Agencies and discussion with the Chair and or Board of Governors to agree a way forward from the options below.

Precautionary suspension not appropriate and the matter is concluded

Allegation progresses through relevant disciplinary procedures

Precautionary suspension under Child Protection procedures imposed

Alternatives to precautionary suspension imposed