

Good Shepherd Primary and Nursery School is committed to the provision of a high quality education for all pupils and high standards to all, which it serves. We believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the Parents/Guardians of our pupils is very important. A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our children learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son/daughter's care /education please contact the school and arrange a meeting with the class teacher and/or the Principal.

We would also encourage you to attend our Parent/Teacher meetings so that members of staff can keep you informed regarding your child's progress and development.

If you have any concerns about your child's safety you should use the following procedure:

- ✓ I have a concern about my child's safety.
- ✓ I can talk to the Teacher.
- ✓ If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Maria Harley)
- ✓ If I am still concerned I can talk to the Principal (Mrs S. McCafferty)
- ✓ If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (Mr P. Duffy)
- ✓ At any time I can talk to the Duty Social Worker in Gateway Team tel: 028 71314090 or the PSNI Public Protection Unit tel: 0845 600 8000

This leaflet can only provide a summary of our child protection policy. A more detailed policy is available on our website or on request from the school office. Contact details are provided below. This policy will be reviewed annually and issued to parents at least once every 2 years. Should you have any questions to ask or comments to make in relation to the content of this leaflet or the full policy, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Principal.

Useful Contact Numbers / information:

School Address: 42 Dungiven Road
Derry
BT47 6BW

Tel Number: 028 71348446

E-Mail Address:
info@goodshepherd.derry.ni.sch.uk

School Website:
www.goodshepherdps.net

Social Services Gateway Team: 028 71 314090

PSNI Public Protection Unit: 0845 600 8000

Learn, Believe, Respect, Achieve



Pastoral Care

Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy (Summary)

*Good Shepherd Primary
& Nursery School*

*Learn, Believe, Respect,
Achieve*

Aims

We in Good Shepherd Primary and Nursery 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 pupils can learn and develop to their full potential.

Principles:

The general principles, which underpin our work, are those set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are enshrined in the Children's (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003, the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) guidance "Pastoral Care in Schools - Child Protection" (DENI Circular 99/10) and the Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures (2005).

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.

School Safeguarding Team:

Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr P Duffy)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Maria Harley)

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty).

Other members of Safeguarding Team: Mrs C Kyle/Mrs R Warne /Mrs A Kivlehan/Mrs P Houston/Mr D Herron.

Members of the team have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of pupils within the school and these are detailed in our full child protection policy.

Procedures

In order to protect our pupils we at Good Shepherd Primary and Nursery School will adhere to the following procedures.

- All staff teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers will have clear guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or neglect is suspected.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo appropriate vetting procedures in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.
- All teaching and ancillary staff will attend a Child Protection training programme organised by the Designated Teacher.
- Children will be supervised at all times while in the school grounds.
- All visitors to the school must report to the Secretary's office.

Bullying concerns will be responded to sensitively in our school. All staff will be vigilant at all times and will aim to prevent bullying by raising awareness with pupils, staff and parents about bullying, its forms and consequences.

Parents can play their part in safeguarding by:

- telephoning the school on the first morning of their child's absence, so as the school is reassured as to the child's well-being;
- making requests to the school in advance for permission to allow their child to attend medical or other appointment including providing details of any arrangements for the collection of the child;
- informing the school whenever anyone, other than themselves, intends to pick up the child after school;
- familiarising themselves with the schools safeguarding policies/procedures e.g. Anti Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Internet and Child Protection Policies;
- reporting to the school office when they visit the school;
- sharing any concerns, they may have in relation to their child with the school.

All staff at Good Shepherd Primary and Nursery School will ensure that all children are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Harley and the Deputy; Mrs Mc Cafferty will assume responsibility in her absence.

The Department of Education of Northern Ireland requires all those working in education to co-operate fully with social services and other agencies to protect children. It is therefore our duty to refer if there is a concern about any form of abuse. The following diagram shows the procedures we are required to follow and is based upon the procedure described in The Department of Education publication 'Pastoral Care in School – Child Protection (1999)'.

