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| *Child Protection Parental Summary* Sunnylands  Sunnylands Primary School logo**Primary School** |
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| ***Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy***  ***Parental Summary***  ***Designated teacher – Mr A Smyth***  ***Deputy Designated teacher – Mrs J Lyons*** UPDATED – NOVEMBER 2022 |

****The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991) states that the most important right for a child is the right to protection:-

‘Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by those looking after them’ (Article 19). ‘When organisations make decisions which affect children, the best interest of the child must be a primary consideration.’ (Article 3)

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| **4 Cs**   * **Care** * **Concern** * **Communication** * **Confidentiality** | **All staff have a Duty of Care to Listen to/report any Concerns that they may have and to Communicate these to the appropriate personnel, keeping the facts Confidential.** |

***Definition of a child***

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

***What is child abuse?***

The following definitions (from state that child abuse can take many forms –

**Neglect Emotional**

**Physical Sexual**

**Exploitation**

***Domestic violence can also have a detrimental effect on a child and should be reported if any concerns are raised.***

A child may suffer or be at risk of suffering from one or more types of abuse which may take place on a **single occasion or repeatedly over time**. All school staff are trained to observe outward symptoms which may be due to child abuse.

**No list of symptoms can be exhaustive. They *may give rise to concern but are not, in themselves, proof that abuse has occurred.***

**Also it must be remembered that alternative medical, psychological or social explanations may exist for the signs and symptoms of abuse.**

Parents must share the responsibility for the welfare of their child and remember the simple things e.g. providing an adequate breakfast, being on time, providing appropriate food for break and lunch, ensuring that their child is clean and tidy and ensuring that their child is prepared for the school day.

It is always preferable to ***prevent abuse*** from starting or for intervention to take place at the earliest possible stage.

***Bullying***

DENI defines bullying as “deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the victim to defend him/herself”. Bullying is not tolerated in our school. All staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim and to discipline the bully.

**PROCEDURES**

There is a range of circumstances that would invoke Child Protection procedures:

* A child makes a disclosure to a member of staff.
* A member of staff has concerns about a child either as a result of one observation or many observations over a period of time.
* A parent expresses concern about the safety of a child.
* Other sources of concern e.g. Social Services etc.

All concerns should immediately be brought to the attention of the ***Designated Teachers:***

* **Mr A Smyth (Designated teacher)**
* **Mrs J Lyons (Deputy Designated teacher)**

1. The disclosure/concern is raised regarding abuse
2. ****The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is informed
3. The Principal is informed and a referral decision is made
4. If no referral is made, parents are informed of the school’s concerns

If a referral is required, Social Services and EA are informed

5. School will continue to monitor pupils as appropriate

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

***“All staff should recognise that in order to protect people from harm, cases may arise where confidentiality must be subordinated to the need to take appropriate action by informing and involving others in the child’s best interests”.*** (DENI Pastoral Care in Schools - Child Protection 1999/10)

**Therefore, no promise of confidentiality can or should ever be given where abuse is alleged** although staff can and should reassure the child that the information will be disclosed only to those professionals who need to know.

The class teacher or the designated teachers for child protection should **seek clarification from the child, preferably in the presence of another adult.**

**OUR PREVENTATIVE CURRICULUM**

One way in which we seek to protect our pupils is by helping them to learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe. This occurs in the general course of age appropriate lessons throughout the curriculum, allowing each class to address issues of health and well- being appropriate to them in line with curricular documentation. Special visitors and assemblies also support this work. Parents, staff and governors have a responsibility to behave in an appropriate manner, both online in in everyday life, in order to set a good example for the children

**PROCEDURES FOR RAISING A CONCERN - PARENT**

1. I have a concern regarding a/my child
2. I can talk to the class teacher
3. If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher (Mr Smyth) or the Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs Lyons)
4. If I am still concerned I can write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (at the school address)
5. I can talk to Social Services (0300 1234333) or the PSNI (101) at any time.

**PROCEDURES FOR RAISING A CONCERN - CHILD**

1. I can talk to the teacher or supervisor in the playground
2. I can talk to my class teacher
3. I can talk to Mr Smyth (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)
4. I can talk to Mrs Lyons (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)
5. I can talk to someone at home
6. I MUST ALWAYS TALK TO SOMEONE

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***Child Protection is everybody’s responsibility!***

*Further support may be found at -*

***www.familysupportni.gov.uk or www.nspcc.org.uk***

*A copy of the Child Protection Policy is available upon request from the school office.*