



# Lochgoilhead Primary School and Pre-5 Unit

## Child Protection and Safeguarding policy

### **DEFINITIONS – WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING?**

**Child Protection** - Protecting a child from child abuse or neglect. Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a likelihood or risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect.

**Safeguarding** – This is a much wider concept than child protection and refers to promoting the welfare of children, young people and protected adults. It encompasses protecting from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health or development, ensuring that they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children, young people and protected adults to have the best outcome. Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities to prevent children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

### **OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Every member of staff at Lochgoilhead Primary School has a professional and contractual duty to protect children, young people and protected adults from abuse and exploitation, respond appropriately if abuse is suspected, and enable our children to exercise their right to be raised in a warm, stimulating and safe environment with the support of staff, their families and carers.

This policy is rooted in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Argyll and Bute's Our Children, Their Future, the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

approach, the Early Years Framework, the Children's Charter and the Framework for Standards.

## **PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST**

At Lochgoilhead Primary School we put children's needs first and ensure that children are listened to and understand decisions that affect them. We work with all relevant agencies to ensure that they get the appropriate co-ordinated support needed to promote, support and safeguard their wellbeing, health and development.

Lochgoilhead Primary School has a policy of partnership between home and school, but with child abuse, suspicion of child abuse, or safeguarding, our first and only responsibility is to the child. This means that parents are not informed or consulted in instances where information is lawfully shared. This is clearly laid out in Argyll and Bute Council's Management Circular on Child Protection and Safeguarding, and staff are required to follow these procedures.

Our curriculum is designed to enable children to develop skills and understanding of what being safe means, to recognise when they may not be safe and way of keeping themselves safe.

## **ROLES IN OUR SCHOOL**

The Head Teacher is the key member of staff with responsibility for all child protection issues. As the Child Protection Co-ordinator in the school, they react should swiftly and appropriately to a situation which causes reasonable grounds for concern about child abuse.

All staff receive training annually on what action to take if there is an allegation or suspicion of child abuse. Any concern or allegation of child abuse is reported immediately to the Head Teacher if there are grounds for concern about the possibility of abuse. The Head Teacher takes appropriate action according to the Management Circular on Child Protection and Safeguarding.

## **PROCEDURES**

Staff should immediately report concerns to the Head Teacher. If there is direct evidence or suspicion of child abuse, then the only way to protect the child or children is to report the matter immediately. It is in each child's best interests not to wait to gather evidence, nor agree to keep the information secret, nor discuss the matter with others. The Head Teacher gives guidance in relation to recording concerns, supporting the child and co-operating with subsequent actions to investigate the grounds of concern and to protect the child or children concerned.