

In Drumahoe Primary School we recognise our responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. We will carry out this duty through our pastoral care policy, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment where children feel secure and free from any emotional and physical harm and are valued as individuals with unique talents and abilities.

### **General Principles:**

The purpose of Drumahoe's procedures on Child Protection is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school - teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers, has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

The overriding concern of all adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child, and the welfare of the child is our paramount consideration. The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in Drumahoe Primary School.

A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of the parents and families, however, where there is conflict, the child's interests will always come first.

Children have the right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously.

We offer a supportive environment to children who are being abused, who have been abused and who maybe abused in the future. All children are vulnerable.

We aim to provide a listening environment where children are able to express their views and concerns in the knowledge that they will be received sympathetically and that appropriate action will be taken. Children are made aware of helpline numbers such as N.S.P.C.C. and Childline through means of posters around the school and the confidential post box in school where they can write notes to staff about any concerns they have.

We integrate the Key concepts of Child Protection within the existing curriculum. Children's awareness and skills of personal safety are developed through our PDMU schemes of work and some outside agencies such as PSNI who help deliver aspects of Child Protection. All members of staff have been subject to appropriate background checks and will adhere to the DENI Code of Conduct for Employees within the education sector and the guidance on the use of Reasonable Force.

We ensure that all other individuals and volunteers with access to the children in relation to school activity will be subject to appropriate vetting procedures.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching will be trained and made aware of the types and indications of abuse and neglect, the appropriate response to the child, the correct procedures for reporting concerns and the need to make a clear distinction between factual reporting and professional opinion.

Drumahoe Primary School has a designated teacher to have specific responsibility for Child Protection—**Mrs L Hegarty:**

In the absence of the designated teacher the deputy designated teacher - **Mr T McMaster** will assume responsibilities for Child Protection matters.

The definitions for Child Abuse that we use can be found in our Policy on Child Protection - available from the school office.

### **Response:**

In the event of an allegation or disclosure of child abuse, the member of staff will react in a professional manner.

### **Receive:**

Listen and accept what the child says but not ask any leading questions except when to show you have understood.

### **Reassure:**

Ensure that the child is reassured that he/she has done the correct thing to talk about it, they will be safe and their interests come first.

### **React:**

Only to ensure that the child is safe and secure. Explain to the child what they (the member of staff) will have to do next.

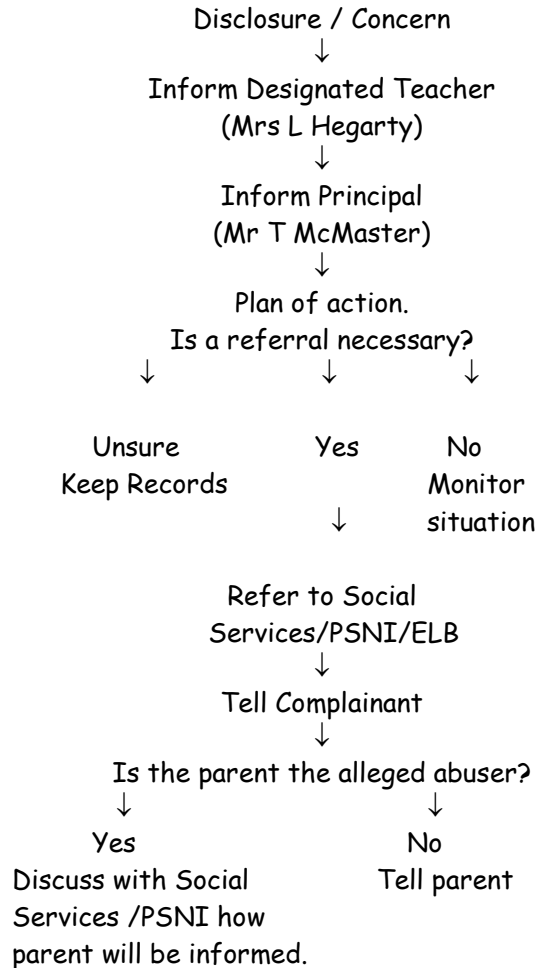
### **Record**

Make a note of what has been seen or heard and the date and time.

### **Report:**

Report to the designated teacher as soon as there is any concern for a child.

## Procedure in response to a disclosure:

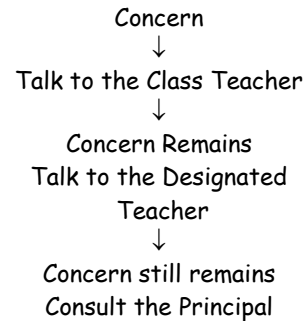


## Procedure when contacted by Social Services:

Schools are legally bound to share information with Social Services when it has been requested. In such circumstances the Designated Teacher will be the contact with Social Services and will liaise between the social worker and class teacher(s). When a request for information is made by Social Services such information will be recorded by the class teacher, as will any further concerns.

## Complaints against a Member of Staff:

If you have a complaint regarding the possible abuse by any member of staff the following procedure should be followed:



If you are still concerned consult or write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

(Dr N Chestnutt)

All our Child Protection policies can be viewed on our website or a copy can be obtained from the office. At anytime you can talk to a social worker or the police.

## Useful contact numbers:

Drumahoe Primary School: Tel: 02871302284

E-Mail: [info@drumahoe.londonderry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@drumahoe.londonderry.ni.sch.uk)

Web Address: [www.drumahoe.org](http://www.drumahoe.org)

Social Services Gateway Team: 02871314090

PSNI Public Protection Unit: 0845 600 8000

## Confidentiality:

Drumahoe Primary School will monitor pupils whose names are on the Child Protection Register or who have been brought to our attention by Social Services.

Access to such information will be given only to those who need to know, i.e. the class teacher.

For children registered as being in care, Mrs Laura Hegarty is the support teacher.

**ALL INFORMATION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

# Drumahoe Primary School



## Child Protection

## Information for Parents (Summary)



### Mission Statement:

Our School is about developing the potential of everyone to the full, within a caring and stimulating environment