

Keeping Children Safe From Harm

Everybody has a responsibility to keep children under 18 years of age safe from harm and abuse. Harm and/or abuse is identified in four ways.

Neglect—means that a child is not being properly taken care of by their parents. This could be about poor hygiene or poor diet, being left alone at home, not being taken to appointments or not being sent to school.

Physical Abuse—is where someone deliberately hurts, hits or injures a child.

Emotional Abuse—is where someone shouts at, uses threats or makes fun of a child to make the child feel frightened, worthless or unloved. A child seeing violence between parents or other people in their home can also be very harmful.

Sexual Abuse— is where someone influences, involves or forces a child to look at or take part in sexual activities. This could include encouraging unwanted touching, involving a child in watching pornography or forcing a child or young person under the age of consent to have sex.



Schools

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe and protected from harm or abuse. Schoolwork will help a child learn about keeping themselves safe. Lessons in school can cover drug and alcohol awareness, healthy eating, road safety, relationships, sex education and bullying.

A child will be told what to do if they are worried or concerned about harm or abuse.

Everyone employed in a school will be vetted (checked by the police) and staff and volunteers will be trained in how to identify abuse including what must be done if they or someone else is worried about a child. The teachers who have responsibility for dealing with child protection in a school are known as Designated Teachers for Child Protection.

A school will give you their child protection policy. It will explain the actions that you or the school must take if either of you are worried or concerned about a child. This will include how concerns are recorded and how they might be reported to social services or the police.

School staff will listen to and work closely with parents to make sure their child feels safe and protected in the school environment.



Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your child safe. As a parent you should:



Talk to the school if you need help or support.

Feel confident about raising any concerns you have in relation to your child.

Read your School's Pastoral Care, Anti Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Internet and Child Protection Policies.

Inform the school if your child has any medical conditions or educational needs.

Make the school aware of any Court Orders relating to your protection or your child's protection.

Inform the school if there is any change in your child's circumstances for example change of address, change of name, change of parental responsibility.

Parents of primary school children should tell the teacher if there are any changes to arrangements about who brings their child to and collects their child from school.

We aim to work closely with parents/guardians in supporting all aspects of their child's development and well-being. Any concerns a parent may have will be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional manner.

If you have a concern about your child's well-being you can talk to the Class Teacher, the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher for child protection/Principal.

If you are still concerned you may talk to the Chair of the Board of Governors.

At any time a parent may talk to a social worker in the local Gateway team or to the PSNI Public Protection Unit.

If you have any concerns about your child's well-being you should use the following procedure to raise a child protection concern:

- I have a concern about my child's well-being—I can talk to my child's teacher
- If I am still concerned—I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (**Mrs L Hegarty**)

This leaflet can only provide a summary of our Child Protection arrangements in school. The full policy is available on request from the school office or it can be accessed on the school's website (contact details below). This policy will be reviewed annually and issued to parents/carers at least every two years. Should you have any questions to ask or comments to make in relation to the content of this leaflet or full policy, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Hegarty)

The following list shows other related Pastoral Care policies, which are also available from the school or are available on the school website:

- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Educational Visits
- Use of Mobile Phones/Electronic device Acceptable use of the internet
- Attendance and Truancy Policy
- Collection Policy
- Drugs Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Medication Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality (RSE) Policy

Other useful contact numbers including school address, telephone number and website details:



Drumahoe Primary School

PASTORAL CARE

CHILD PROTECTION

Information for Parents

Child Protection Ethos ...

“Our school is about developing the potential of everyone to the full, within a caring and stimulating environment.”

This Leaflet will tell you:

- ⇒ The four ways in which harm and/or [Child Protection in Education](#) abuse is defined.
- ⇒ What your child's school must do to protect and keep your child safe from harm and/or abuse.
- ⇒ What you must do as a Parent to protect your child so that they get the best out of their school experience.
- ⇒ Who you can contact for further information about child protection in Drumahoe Primary School