

Magherafelt Nursery School

Exploring, Learning and Growing Together

Safeguarding our Children Policy Summary



The Safeguarding Team

Head of Safeguarding	...	Mrs L Whiteside
Designated Teacher	...	Mrs D Campbell
Deputy Designated Teacher	...	Mrs C Quinn
Deputy Designated Teacher	...	Mrs L McGill
Designated Governor	...	Mr N Richardson (contact office for details)
Chair of Board of Governors	...	Mrs SJ Knox (contact office for details)

Safeguarding is the umbrella term for all the policies and procedures that are operational to keep each child safe and protected when in the community of Magherafelt Nursery School. With a legal 'duty of care,' the Nursery team take their roles and responsibilities seriously, and through a nurturing environment and child-friendly curriculum, the wellbeing and safety of the children will be promoted. It is important that the children in our care feel safe, valued and respected and that their progress and development are monitored by vigilant and informed staff.



Key Messages

- The child's welfare is paramount
- The voice of the child is listened to and acted upon
- The importance of parental partnerships
- The prevention of harm to the child
- The protection of each child

Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools; A Guide for Schools 2017

The children will be encouraged to:

- Value themselves as individuals
- Explore and develop their interests and talents
- Take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others
- Talk to the adults about any worries, concerns or problems they might have
- Learn about their feelings and those of others
- Make choices and to say 'No' when appropriate

Procedures and Practice

- Staff support children to resolve conflicts and to become more aware of the consequences of their behaviour.
- All staff in the Nursery School are recruited following the Education Authority procedures and Enhanced Criminal Record Check.
- Staff, students and volunteers follow the Magherafelt Nursery School Code of Conduct
- All students over the age of 18 undergo an Enhanced Criminal Records Check.
- All volunteers, students and peripatetic staff are informed of their Child Protection responsibilities whilst working in the school.
- All staff and Governors receive Safeguarding and Child Protection training as per EA guidelines.
- All volunteers and students work under the guidance of the class teacher.

Person(s) with Parental Responsibility



- Please go to www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities for further information on Parental Responsibility.
- Parental responsibility is retained until a staff member has received your child and is resumed once your child is collected from the classroom.
- It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the safety of the child when exiting the school and in the car parks.
- Person(s) with parental responsibility will provide permissions and collection arrangements at the start of Term 1 via the google form 'MNS Safeguarding and Child Protection' and will update this as needed.
- If your child is required to leave a session early, you will be asked to complete the Collection Book.
- If your child regularly arrives late, or is collected late, you will need to complete the Late Book.
- It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that your child attends school daily (except by prior arrangement with the principal) and that all absences are accounted for using the website form at www.magherafeltnurseryschool.com/parents/reporting-absence/ or by phoning the school.

Person(s) with parental responsibility have a duty to inform the principal **in writing** if:

- Your child has been placed on the Social Services **Child Protection Register** of 'Children at Risk.'
- There is a current Care Order for your child.
- Any member of the child's family is **not permitted** to collect your child (please supply a photograph of this person).
- There are any changes to contact details or collection arrangements.

All such information given will be treated confidentially and shared with key staff members on a '**need to know**' basis.

What is Child Abuse?

This occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. It occurs in families from all cultures and social classes as well as in agencies and organisations. Abusers come from all 'walks of life' and often are known to the family. Children can be abused by a parent, a sibling or step-sibling, a carer, a relative, an acquaintance or by a stranger.

Abuse may take several forms:

NEGLECT: The persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to cause significant harm, e.g. inadequate food, shelter, clothing and supervision.

EMOTIONAL: The persistent emotional ill treatment of a child e.g. conveying to a child that he is worthless, unloved or inadequate. Exposing a child to domestic violence, parental substance misuse or adult mental health problems.

PHYSICAL: The deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering e.g. hitting, shaking, confinement to a room or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

SEXUAL: Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities e.g. physical contact or non contact activities such as looking at inappropriate material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: Is a form of sexual abuse in which a child or young person is exploited, coerced and/or manipulated into engaging in some form of sexual activity in return for something they need or desire and/or for the gain of a third person.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: It is now recognised that children who live in an atmosphere of domestic violence may be at risk. Domestic violence is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or who have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

Psychological, Physical, Sexual, Financial, Emotional

Referral Procedure

In the interests of the child, information disclosed to members of staff cannot be held 'in confidence.' **The staff have a duty of care to inform Social Services and / or PSNI where a child might be at risk.** The person(s) with parental responsibility will be made aware of this referral ***unless the school has been otherwise informed by the Education Authority / Social Services.*** Responses and referrals will be evidence based and proportionate to the circumstances. The EA Safeguarding and Child Protection Team will be contacted in the first instance.

What to do if you have a significant concern?

I have a concern about my child / a child's safety / in school
I can talk to the Class Teacher
If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection Mrs D Campbell
If Designated Teacher is not available I can talk to the Principal Mrs L Whiteside, or the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs C Quinn / Mrs L McGill
If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors Mrs SJ Knox, or Mr N Richardson (Designated Governor for Child Protection)
At any time I can talk to the Social Worker at the Gateway Team (Tel 028 9442 4459 or 0300 1234 333 out of hours), or the PSNI Public Protection Unit (Tel 101), or the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour helpline (Tel 0808 8005000)

What to do if the Child Protection concern is in relation to a member of the school staff?

If the complaint is about someone other than the Principal:

Tell the Principal

The Principal will inform the
Chair of the Board of Governors.
DENI 2017/04 will be consulted to inform further actions.

If the complaint is about the Principal:

Inform the Designated Teacher who will inform the
Chair of the Board of Governors.
DENI 2017/04 will be consulted to inform further actions.

Designated staff and Governors are appointed, trained and supported in their co-ordinational roles and are guided to follow best practice safeguarding and child protection procedures as outlined by DENI, EA, SBNI and Social Services.

‘Child Protection is Everybody’s Business.’

Safeguarding and related policies are reviewed annually and will be available on the website.

Website: www.magherafeltnurseryschool.com

Tel: 028 7963 2981

Email: info@magherafeltns.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk



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