

Ebrington Primary School Policy for Safeguarding Children



Policy for Safeguarding Children

The Children Order (NI) 1995 places duties on a number of agencies, including Education and Library Boards acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of child abuse.

The central thrust of the Children Order is that *the welfare of the child must be of paramount importance and schools have a pastoral responsibility towards children in their charge and should take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved* (Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection DENI 1999)

The Children's Act 1991 also makes it a criminal offence to fail to notify the correct authorities of alleged child abuse.

CHILD PROTECTION IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL'S PASTORAL CARE POLICY.

- The Education Board considers that the ultimate responsibility lies with the Board of Governors and the Principal to ensure that all staff are aware of the Board's Procedure.
- Children cannot learn effectively or develop unless they feel secure; therefore our aim is always to act in the best interests of the child.
- This policy develops a framework for an agreed course of action.
- The school is legally committed to pursue this course of action.
- It has implications for all members of the school community, pupils, teaching staff, non teaching staff, voluntary helpers, parents and Board of Governors.

Mission Statement

The Board of Governors, Principal and Senior Management Team take seriously their primary responsibility for the safety and welfare of the children and staff in Ebrington Primary School as set out in the guidance of DENI, Child Protection Circulars.

Every child has the fundamental right to be safe at school and every parent has the right to expect this from their child's school.

Ebrington Primary School will do all in its power to keep children safe.

Child Abuse

The definitions outlined in the DENI document, Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection (1999) will be used. These cover: neglect, physical, sexual, emotional abuse and may also include impact and consequences of Domestic Violence.

Bullying

Bullying will not be tolerated in the school and will be addressed through the procedures outlined in the school's pastoral care and discipline policies.

Staff will be vigilant in order to identify incidents of bullying and complaints will be fully investigated by the designated teacher.

The "situation" will be monitored until the problem is resolved.

Aims

- To create a safe and secure environment for all members of the school community.
- Develop the children's skills in self - protection through an agreed whole school curriculum initiative.

Objectives

The child protection dimension of the school involves all pupils and adults.

The school will contribute by

1. ensuring that pupils have sufficient knowledge about themselves to be able to understand what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate physical contact;
2. enabling children to become aware of strategies which they may use to protect themselves from possible threatening situations;
3. developing an on-going programme of personal and social education;
4. ensuring that all staff are aware of signs of possible child abuse;
5. ensuring that all new staff are made aware of Child Protection Procedures on appointment;
6. undertaking that all staff and regular voluntary helpers will have undergone security clearance by the police;
7. providing all staff with regular in-service training to maintain an awareness among staff, of child protection issues and procedures;
8. encouraging the designated teachers to avail themselves of opportunities to update their knowledge of child protection procedures;
9. adhering to the regulations set out in the Child Protection document.

**In Ebrington Primary School, the designated teacher is
MRS CHRISTINE BAGGLEY
the deputy designated teacher is
MRS SHIRLEY PENTLAND**

In the case of absence, the deputy designated teacher assumes the responsibility of the designated teacher.

Roles and responsibilities

Role of the Designated Board Officer

- Provide advice, guidance and support for designated teachers on the handling of child protection issues.
- Maintain a register of designated and deputy designated teachers.
- Make provision for the training of all designated teachers.
- Assist in dealing with child protection complaints against board employees/board officers.

Role of the Designated Teacher

The designated teacher is responsible for:

- Training of all school/support staff/volunteers.
- Discussing child protection concerns of any member of school staff/volunteers and keeping records.
- Making referrals to Social Services or PSNI Care Team.
- Notifying the designated officer.
- Keeping principal informed.
- Reporting to Chair of the BOG
- Development of school's child protection policy.
- Promoting a child protection pupil welfare ethos within the school.

Role of the Board of Governors

- Duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the care of the school.
- Overall responsibility for policies, procedures and structures within school.
- Duty to ensure child protection policy is implemented and reviewed.
- Duty to ensure parents and pupils are made aware of policy and how to make a complaint.
- Ensure that designated teacher and deputy are in place and have received training.
- Ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for the selection, recruitment and vetting of volunteers.
- Ensure the development of the preventative curriculum.

Raising Concerns

If you have any concerns about your own or another child's safety or welfare, please speak to the class teacher, designated teacher for child protection or the Principal. All concerns are taken seriously and dealt with as quickly as is reasonably possible.

While Ebrington Primary School operates an open door policy, it may be necessary for parents to make an appointment in order to be allocated a reasonable amount of time for the issue to be discussed fully.

Details of all the issues discussed will be recorded and retained by the school following the guidelines contained in "Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection (1999)

Complaint against a member of staff

If a complaint is made against a member of staff in relation to Child Protection issues, the Principal (or in her absence the designated teacher) should be informed immediately.

The chairperson of the BOG will also be informed.

Procedures will be followed as outlined in the DENI document;

Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection (1999)

If a complaint is made against the Principal, the designated teacher will inform the chairperson of the BOG and together they will ensure that the necessary action is taken.

Sources of advice

(All information correct at time of publication)

Organisation	Name	Contact No.
Social Services	Gateway Team, Whitehill, 106 Irish Street, Derry, BT47 2ND	71 314090
School Nurse	Jackie Ward	71 865104
EA CP Officers	Martin McQuaid	82 411478
	Godfrey Young	82 411590
Education Welfare Officer	Theresa Melaugh	71 272332
Educational Psychologist	Caroline Doherty	71 864780
Helplines	CHILDLINE	
Some useful information sites for internet safety and protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ www.ceop.police.uk▪ www.thinkuknow.co.uk▪ www.childnet.com▪ www.commonsensemedia.org	

Awareness in Child Protection

- All staff, teaching and non-teaching, are trained in child protection awareness and will be alert to signs of abuse and aware of the procedures to be followed.
- Pupils will be advised, as part of the curriculum, about actions they can take to keep themselves safe and how to access help when needed.
- Prevention is the preferred approach and the school will take steps to reduce any potential for abuse to occur.
- Any situations which involve one to one contact with a child will be managed and monitored so that they can take place in close proximity to available supervision and assistance.
- Digital Photographs are used within school, on the website and in local press. Parental permission is given on a signed form at the start of Nursery/P1 and that is kept on the child's file until they leave Ebrington.

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. Staff mobile phones will not be used in the presence of children. Mobile phones are never used for taking photographs. Parents who volunteer for trips are asked not to use mobile phones. This is given to each volunteer on a separate "Educational Visits" Guidance Sheet.

Safeguarding Policies

- Staff Code of Conduct
- Record Keeping and disposal of documents
- First Aid and Administration of Medicines
- Health & Safety
- Educational Visits
- Child Protection
- Intimate Care Policy
- Use of ICT
- Photo & Image
- Risk Assessment Policy

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