

Keithhall School



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy – October 2021

Contact Details

Child Protection Lead: a member of the senior leadership team with appropriate authority, responsible for dealing with CP issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the local authority, and working with other agencies. This is a post which requires assessment of children.

Name: Nicole Scott – Head Teacher

Deputy Child Protection Lead: a member of staff with appropriate authority, responsible for dealing with CP issues, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the local authority, and working with other agencies in the absence of the CP lead.

Name: Fiona Smith – Head Teacher at Hatton of Fintray School

Police

Emergency Tel: 999 or 112 Non-emergency Tel: 101

Other useful contacts:

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk.

Anti-terrorism hotline: 0800 789 321

Childline: 0800 111 111

Kidscape Bullying Helpline: 020 7823 5430

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre): www.ceop.gov.uk

All School-based staff can be contacted using the following details:

Tel: 01467 536930

Email: keithhall.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Address: Keithhall, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. AB51 0L

Definitions

Child Protection - In the context of these guidelines, the term 'Child Protection' incorporates suspected and actual abuse of children. Someone may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to act to prevent, significant harm to the child.

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

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (2018), Education Scotland.

Introduction

Safeguarding and Child Protection is part of our approach to getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Curriculum for Excellence. Every child and young person has the right to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included. They have the right to be listened to and to have their views considered.

Article 3 The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Article 12 Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

Article 13 Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Article 19 Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 36 Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Staff and volunteers in schools are well-placed to observe physical, psychological or emotional changes in children that may indicate some form of abuse. All staff should familiarise themselves with the Aberdeenshire Council Protecting Children and Young People in Education documents, located in the Staffroom. Categories of child abuse listed in the guidelines are physical injury, non-organic failure to thrive, emotional abuse/neglect, sexual abuse and physical neglect. Where there is a possibility that a child could be at risk, the school is required to follow strict procedures which are outlined in this policy. Any intervention by a public authority in the life of a child must be properly justified and should be supported by services from all relevant agencies working in collaboration.

Children have the right to be protected from abuse and harm at all times. Schools are responsible for ensuring that children are protected from maltreatment so that they grow and develop appropriately. This policy guides the school in protecting those rights to help ensure that every child is kept safe. This helps our children have the best start in life, to flourish and become:

- **Responsible citizens**
- **Successful learners**
- **Confident Individuals**
- **Effective Contributors**

At Keithhall Primary School, we will:

- Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of each child. Management of suspected abuse must put the safety of the child first.
- Ensure all staff are responsible for the implementation of procedures. Prevention of abuse is as important as reacting to suspicions of abuse.
- Ensure the child's views are listened to and taken seriously

GIRFEC - Getting It Right For Every Child

The Scottish Government's policy for all children's services sets out the following vision, that all children's services will:

- Put the child and their family at the centre
- Provide early intervention in order to ensure that all children achieve their potential
- Achieve the highest standards of joint working and collaboration to improve outcomes for all children
- Ensure a single planning process is in place for children and young people

In order to achieve their potential Children and Young people need to be:

- **Safe**
- **Healthy**
- **Achieving**
- **Nurtured**
- **Active**
- **Respected**
- **Responsible**
- **Included**

These are known as the **SHANARRI** wellbeing indicators. See Appendix 1.

If a staff member feels that a child or young person's wellbeing is being affected, then they should ask the five GIRFEC questions:

1. What is getting in the way of this child or young person's wellbeing?
2. What can I do now to help this child or young person?
3. What additional help – if any – may be needed from others?
4. Do I have all the information I need to help this child or young person?
5. What can my agency do to help this young child or young person?

It is vital that all staff know what action to take should they have any concerns about a child or should they receive information which suggests that the child may be experiencing some form of abuse. The procedures outlined in this policy are designed both to safeguard the wellbeing of the child and to ensure that all school staff know how to respond if they are concerned or become aware that a child may have been abused.

Staff Training

All staff working within the school receive an annual Safeguarding and Child Protection briefing, including information contained within this policy, its operation and any amendments to it. This will normally take place at the first in-service day in August and is integral to the new staff and volunteer induction program. Staff are also required to undertake statutory PREVENT training with an annual refresher.

Curriculum Support

Age and stage appropriate curriculum experiences are planned where children learn about the value of positive parenting and healthy relationships. The Health & Wellbeing curriculum, including Living and Growing, Rights Respecting School, Bounceback, Social and Life skills work and the My World Triangle Posters are displayed around the school. Children know that any member of staff with whom they trust and feel comfortable will listen and support them. They also know about the service ChildLine through assembly work and posters displayed in school. The school also invites visitors such as the Scottish NSPCC and Police Scotland to talk to the children at assemblies to highlight self-awareness and keeping safe.

Procedures at Keithhall Primary School

All educational establishments should designate a senior member of staff as responsible for co-ordinating action on child abuse within the establishment. At Keithhall Primary School, this is the Head Teacher, Mrs Nicole Scott. In her absence, Mrs Fiona Smith, Head Teacher at Hatton of Fintray is the deputy Child Protection Coordinator for the School. Referrals should normally be through these designated staff members, but every employee has the responsibility to make a direct referral.

If any member of staff has any concerns relating to a child at risk from any form of harm, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Discuss your concerns immediately with the Child Protection lead, Mrs Nicole Scott (Head Teacher).
2. If they are not available, then advice may be sought from another establishment Head Teacher: Fiona Smith, Hatton of Fintray School.

Tel: 01224472920

3. If the incident happens out of hours, or it is not possible to speak to any school contacts, then it is important that you do not wait but immediately contact the duty Social Worker, or if you believe a crime has taken place, the Police directly.

The 3 key questions in Child Protection are:

- **Is this child or young person at immediate risk?**
- **What is placing this child at immediate risk?**
- **What needs to happen to remove this risk now?**

4. In all cases, incidents should be logged, action taken and recorded in line with Child Protection Flow Chart. (See Appendix 2) A written record of incidents and action taken should be kept. The Child Protection Flow Chart included within this policy outlines the correct procedure to follow and correct forms to use.

5. It is essential to maintain strict confidentiality in all child protection matters. Breach of confidentiality is a serious disciplinary matter and must be reported immediately to the line manager.

Disclosure should not be discounted because of the status or role of the alleged abuser. Collection of evidence is a Police/Social Work role and will be carried out as per standard procedures.

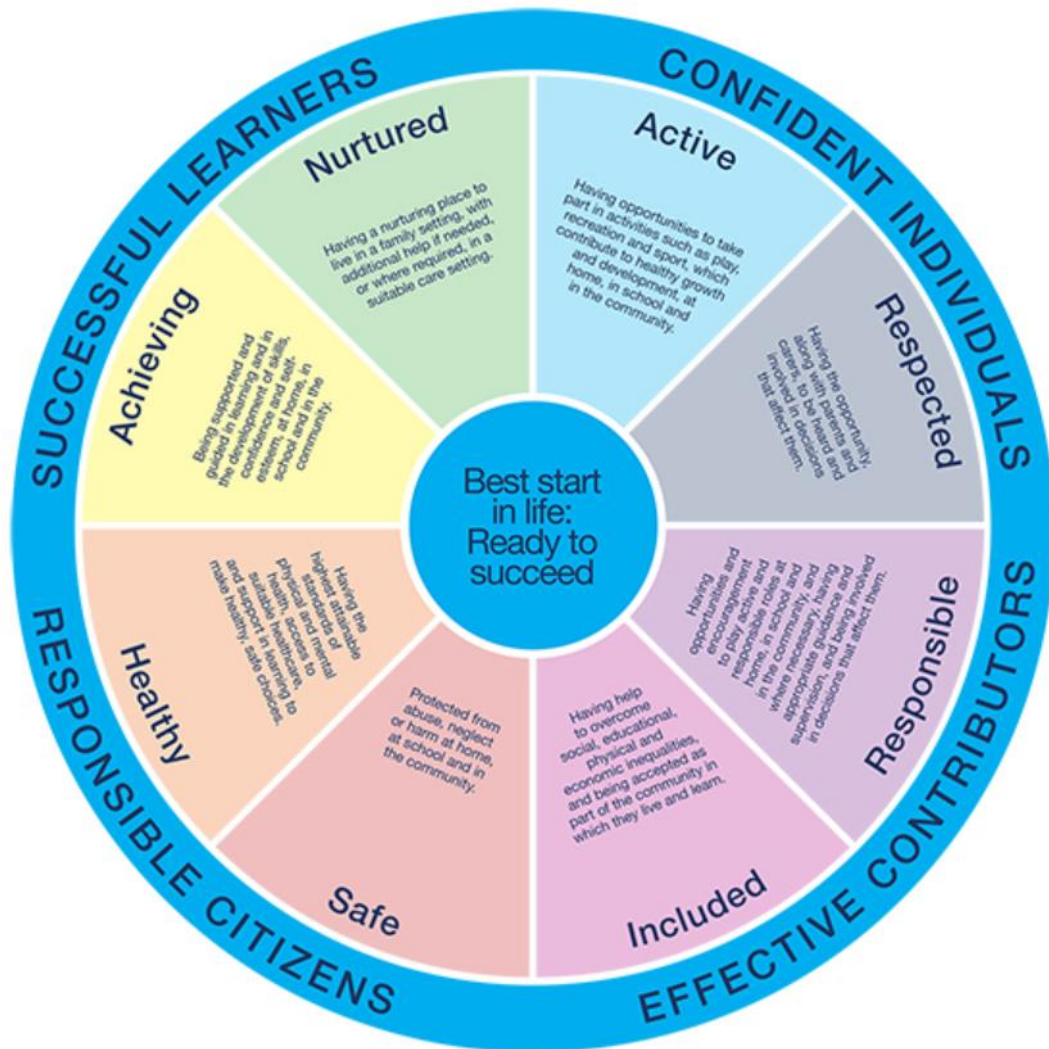
Dealing with Disclosures

- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by telling you.
- Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Take notes as appropriate. Make some very brief notes at the time on any paper which comes to hand and write them up as soon as possible on the GIRFEC Concern Sheet GC1 Form. Do not destroy your original notes, attach them to the GC1 Form. Record statements and observable things, rather than your interpretations or assumptions.
- Ask open questions like: "Anything else to tell me?"
- Explain what you have to do next and who you have to talk to. Do not promise confidentiality – explain to the child that this information must be passed on, as appropriate. Do not ask the pupil to repeat it all for another member of staff.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

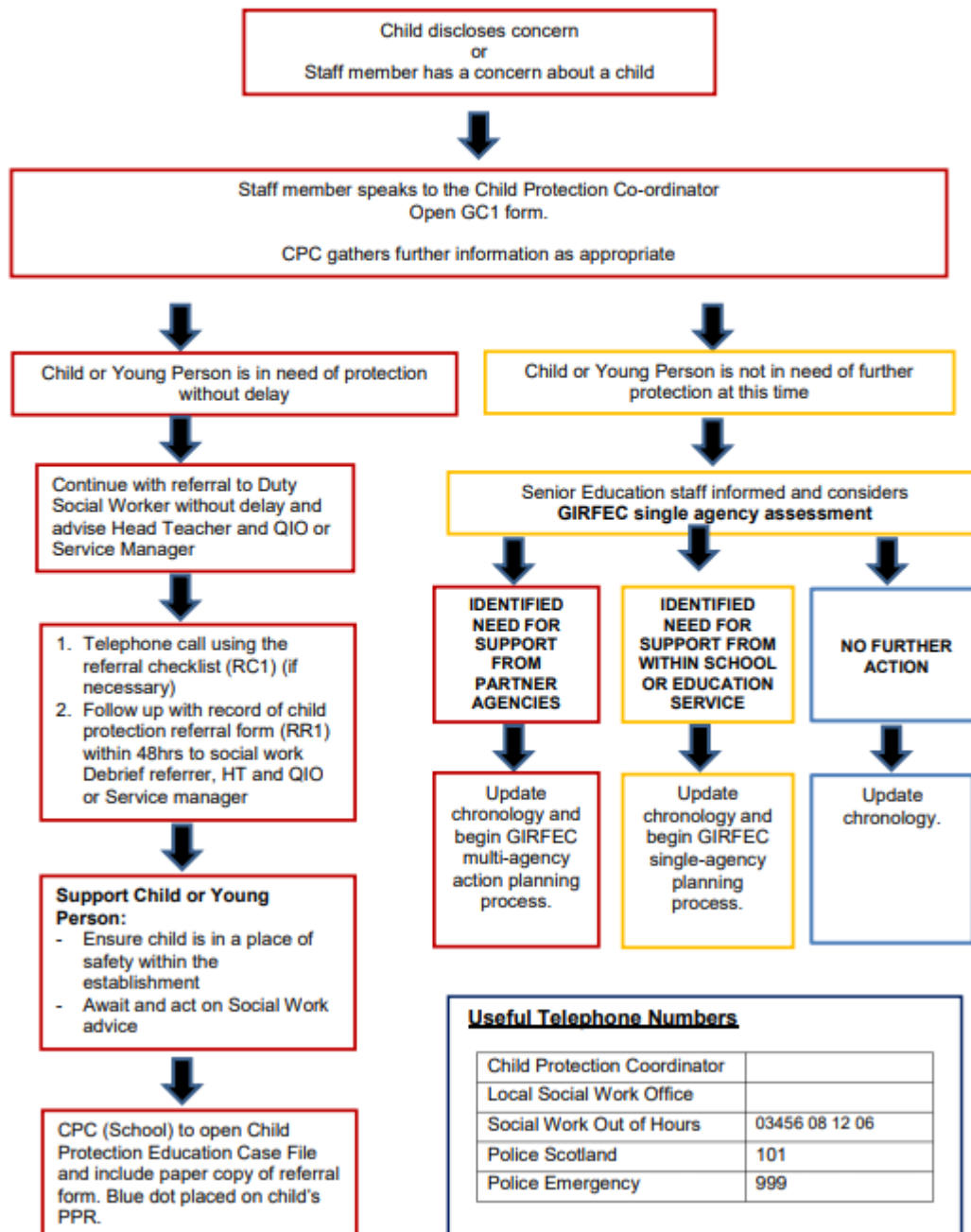
Updated	Review Date	Version
October 2021	October 2022	2021.01

Appendix 1 – SHANARRI Wheel



Appendix 2 – Child Protection Flowchart

Child Protection Procedure in Education Flow Chart Recognising actual or potential harm to a child



Appendix 3 – My World Triangle

