



Kilcreggan Early Learning and Childcare Centre



# Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



## UNCRC:

**Article 3 Adults must do what's best for me**

**Article 19 I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated**

*'The curriculum needs to be delivered in a school with an ethos which empowers children; a school which allows them to voice ideas, feelings and opinions, treats them with respect, values their contribution and lets parents make a contribution to the educational process.'*

From 'Responding to Child Abuse'

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that all staff in schools play an important role in identifying potential cases of child abuse. It is also important that all relevant agencies involved in child abuse co-operate together for the benefit of the child. All schools have a designated teacher for child protection, who liaises with Social Service departments and with teachers in school. For this procedure to work, it relies on the skills and expertise of every class teacher and adult within school to recognise or report concerns.

At Kilcreggan Primary School and ELCC, the Head Teacher is the designated person for child protection. The class teachers and ELCC staff know the procedures that are in place. All staff have total commitment to child protection. They raise children's awareness about themselves through the Health and Wellbeing curriculum and PAtHs lessons and develop a trusting climate so that children feel able to talk and share their thoughts and feelings.

Kilcreggan Primary School and ELCC have a policy of partnership between home and school, but with child abuse, or suspicion of child abuse, our first and only responsibility is to the child. We work in partnership with and take our lead from our Social Work colleagues which can mean that parents are not informed or consulted in some instances by the school. This is clearly laid out in Argyll and Bute Council Education Departments Standard Circular on Child Protection. This Standard Circular is discussed with all staff, teaching and non-teaching at least once a session. All staff have annual training on Child Protection practices and procedures.

*Kilcreggan Primary ELCC*

*Updated Aug 2023*



## Kilcreggan Early Learning and Childcare Centre



We may not be able to prevent child abuse, but by following child protection procedures, we are trying our best to protect all our children and this is our first and only responsibility. All teachers make sure, through their care of children, to try to

ensure that children keep safe, remain healthy and are able to say "NO". Suspected cases or wellbeing concerns are reported, procedures adhered to and subsequent actions are left to the appropriate agencies. We also care for children who have been abused and understand their problems.

### **AIMS:**

By following child protection procedures we:

- Care for the child
- Care for our school
- Care for the community we serve
- Respond to the guidelines and procedures of other agencies

### **GUIDELINES:**

In reporting concern or suspicion, all adults in school must follow the following procedures. The Head Teacher will then follow the Argyll and Bute Child Protection Procedures.

### **REASONS FOR FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:**

- It protects the child to the best of our ability
- It avoids delay
- It provides consistency
- It protects all staff
- It ensures that, if further action is taken by another agency, then the school has followed the protection procedures

Staff are in contact with children all day and are in a position to detect possible abuse. They must not think that by voicing concern they are necessarily starting procedures. The criteria should be that they have '*reasonable suspicion*' and under

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the Children Act, 1989, this definition has been extended to include 'or may suffer in future'.

If a child discloses abuse or staff have concerns they **must**:

- Report immediately to the Head Teacher (designated Child Protection Officer)
- Do not speak to the parents
- Do not promise the child that it will be kept a secret
- Write down what has been said or witnessed, sign, date and record the time. This should then be given immediately to the Head Teacher or Principal Teachers if the Head Teacher is unavailable

It is very important in these cases that prompt and correct procedures are followed under Argyll and Bute Child Protection Procedures.

The reporting adult / class teacher may or may not receive any information following the reporting of a disclosure from the Head Teacher. This will depend on guidance from our Social Work colleagues.

Staff have an important role in hearing what children have to say. The school can provide a neutral place where the child feels it is safe to talk. Sensitivity to the disclosure is vital. Staff must listen carefully to what the child is saying, treat it seriously, and value what they say.

Children may feel they will not be believed, or that they will be punished. Staff will reassure the child that whatever has happened it is not their fault. It is crucial not to ask leading questions. Our role is to enable the child to speak and then know what to do next.

Confidential Pastoral Notes on Seemis record any staff concerns about children. These are only accessible by the school leadership team.

### **STAFF TRAINING**

All staff undertake Child Protection and Safeguarding training on the August Inservice Training day each session. This is followed up in February with the completion of the LEON online training as a refresher.

This training covers



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- Signs and symptoms
- Definitions of Child Abuse
- Procedures to follow should children disclose

**The Child Protection Co-ordinator for Kilcreggan Early Learning and Childcare Centre is Allison Smith, Head Teacher.**

### **National Care Standards**

3.1 I experience people speaking and listening to me in a way that is courteous and respectful, with my care and support being the main focus of people's attention

3.14 I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes

3.20 I am protected from harm, neglect, abuse, bullying and exploitation by people who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities.

3.21 I am protected from harm because people are alert and respond to signs of significant deterioration in my health and wellbeing, that I may be unhappy or may be at risk of harm.

3.22 I am listened to and taken seriously if I have a concern about the protection and safety of myself or others, with appropriate assessments and referrals made.