**How to raise a Child Protection Concern**

I have a concern about my/a child's safety

I can talk to the class teacher

If I am still concerned I can talk to the Principal, Mr McCluskey, or I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Miss Gilmour

If I am still concerned I can talk or write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mr Jones, care of:

Oakfield Primary School,

Oakfield Drive

Carrickfergus

BT38 7SP

028 93 351352

At any time, I can write or talk to a Social Worker, care of

South Eastern Gateway Team 028 93 340165,

or the Police, care of Public Protection Unit, Child Protection, 101.

If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman 0800 343 424

**Getting in touch**

By Letter:

Oakfield Primary School,

Oakfield Drive

Carrickfergus

BT38 7SP

By Telephone:

O28 93 351352

By Email:

[info@oakfieldps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@oakfieldps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk)

**Additional Policy Information**

A copy of the School’s full Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available from the School Office.

Additional Pastoral Care Policies available from the School Office:

* Anti-Bullying Policy
* Attendance Policy
* Intimate Care Policy
* Relationships and Sexuality Education

**Oakfield Primary School**

**and Nursery Unit**

**Child Protection Summary Leaflet**

**School Year: 2022 – 2023**

Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit Safeguarding Team

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Designated Teacher for Child Protection | Miss L Gilmour |
| Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection | Mrs J Barrow |
| Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection – Nursery Unit | Mrs K Wylie |
| Principal Partners | Mr G McCluskey  Mrs Y Moore |
| Designated Governor for Child Protection | Mrs L Soeters |

**Introduction**

This leaflet provides a summary of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. The full Policy is available from the School Office.

* The purpose of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is to protect our children and give clear guidelines to everyone in our school community about the action that is required where there is concern.
* No concern about the welfare of any child will be ignored by staff in Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit. Children’s safety and wellbeing in their environment is of paramount importance and is embedded in the ethos of the school.
* Our Policy seeks to ensure a consistent approach by all members of staff, and to develop an effective partnership with parents in relation to Safeguarding and Child Protection.
* As part of our ongoing work in the area of Pastoral Care we will endeavour to raise children’s awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection issues, equip them with the skills to keep them safe, and develop a trusting climate in which they feel able to talk and share their thoughts and feelings.

**What is Child Abuse?**

**Definition and Categories of Abuse**

*(ACPC Regional Policy and Procedures 2005 Chapter 2)*

“Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them...”

* **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s physical, emotional and / or psychological needs, likely to cause significant harm.

* **Sexual**

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. T

* **Physical**

Physical Abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering.

* **Emotional**

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on a child’s emotional development. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may expose a child to emotional abuse.

* **Exploitation**

Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain.

**Reporting Process for Child Protection Concerns**

When a possible concern is voiced or noted the following course of action is required:

* Concerns reported to Miss L Gilmour, Designated Teacher
* Designated Teacher meets with Safeguarding Team to plan course of action and ensure a written record is made
* Seek advice as appropriate from Education Authority Designated Officers / Social Services / PSNI
* If necessary, Designated Teacher makes a referral to Social Services using Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI)
* Designated Teacher keeps records of all actions

Detailed records will be kept of all concerns and actions relating to suspicions of abuse. All notes will be written objectively, without speculation, and immediately following any incident.

**Confidentiality**

The welfare of the child is paramount. Confidentiality has secondary place to the need to protect the child. No promise of confidentiality can or should ever be given where abuse is alleged. This is in the child’s best interest.