



Child Protection in Education

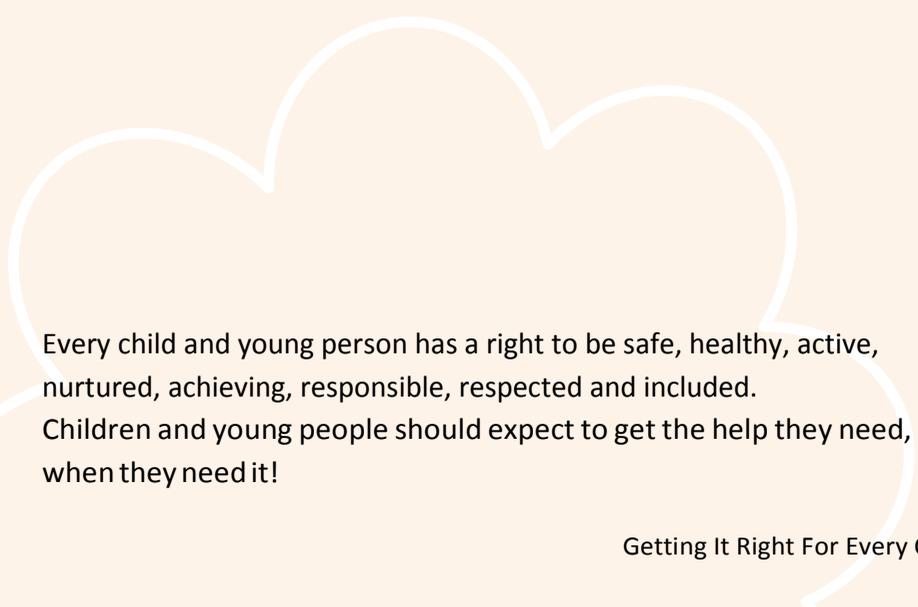
Aberdeenshire Council is committed to the protection of children. We work closely with partners to keep the children in our communities safe and to help them achieve their full potential.



Keeping Children Safe

This leaflet will tell you:

- The four ways in which harm and/or abuse is defined.
- What your child's school must do to protect and keep your child safe from harm and/or abuse.
- What you must do as a parent to protect your child so that they get the best out of their school experience.
- Who you can contact for further information about child protection in schools.



Every child and young person has a right to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included. Children and young people should expect to get the help they need, when they need it!

Keeping Children Safe from Harm

Everyone has a responsibility to keep children safe from harm and abuse. Harm and/or abuse is identified in four ways:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person.

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the imposition of age - or developmentally - inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or exploiting or corrupting children.

Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child; it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts.

They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of indecent images or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional needs. Neglect may also result in the child being diagnosed as suffering from non-organic failure to thrive, where they have significantly failed to reach normal weight and growth or development milestones and where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated.

In its extreme form children can be at serious risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation.

Schools

A child should be able to go to school and feel safe and protected from harm or abuse. Schools will help a child learn about keeping safe. The curriculum will cover all aspects of Health and Wellbeing e.g. drug and alcohol awareness, personal safety, healthy eating, road safety, relationships, sex education and bullying. A child will be informed of what to do if they are worried or concerned about harm or abuse.

Everyone employed in a school is a member of the PVG* scheme (Protecting Vulnerable Groups). Staff and volunteers are trained in how to identify abuse including what must be done if they or someone else is worried about a child. The member of staff who has responsibility for dealing with Child Protection in a school is known as the Child Protection Co-ordinator.

Each school has a Child Protection policy. It will explain the actions that the school must take if concerns are raised about the safety of a child. This will include how concerns are recorded and how they might be reported to social services or the police. School staff will listen to and work closely with parents to make sure their child feels safe and protected.

***The Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG Scheme) will:**

- help to ensure that those who have regular contact with children and protected adults through paid and unpaid work do not have a known history of harmful behaviour.

Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your child safe. As a parent you should:

- Talk to the school if you need help or support.
- Feel confident about raising any concerns you have in relation to your child with a member of staff.
- Inform the school if your child has any medical conditions or educational needs.
- Inform the school of any Court Orders relating to your protection or your child's protection.
- Inform the school if there is any change in your child's circumstances for example; change of address, change of name, change of parental responsibility.
- Parents of nursery and primary school children should inform the teacher if there are any changes to who brings their child to and collects their child from school.
- Parents should inform the school if their child is absent.

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“It’s Everyone’s Job to Make Sure I’m Alright”

Every child and young person has a right to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included. Children and young people should expect to get the help they need, when they need it!

Getting It Right for Every Child

Useful Contacts

If you would like to speak to someone, seek help or pass on information or concerns:

The establishment Child Protection Co-ordinator is:

Nic Boyle

Contact Numbers

Local social work child and family team:

01467 537555

Out of hours or urgent referrals:

Call Social Work Out of Hours Service on **03456 08 12 06**.

Police Scotland can be contacted on telephone number **101**.



For more information go to
www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org

