

**LOUGHRIES INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

**PARENT SUMMARY**

**This document provides a summary for parents of our Child Protection Policy and the procedures in place at our school should you have a Child Protection Concern. A full copy of our Child Protection is available to parents on the school website.** [**www.loughriesips.com**](http://www.loughriesips.com)

**Key Principles of Safeguarding and Child Protection**

The general principles, which underpin our work, are those set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are enshrined in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, “Co-operating to safeguard children and young people in Northern Ireland” (DHSSPSNI, 2017), the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) guidance “Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools” Circular 2017/04 (amended September 2023) and the SBNI Core Child Protection Policy and Procedures (2017).

The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy:

* The child or young person’s welfare is paramount;
* The voice of the child or young person should be heard;
* Parents are supported to exercise parental responsibility and families helped stay together;
* Partnership;
* Prevention;
* Responses should be proportionate to the circumstances;
* Protection; and
* Evidence based and informed decision making.

**The following are members of the school’s Safeguarding Team:**

* Chair of the Board of Governors: **Mr Roy Lyttle**
* Designated Governor for Child Protection: **Mrs Victoria McGimpsey**
* Principal: **Mr G Stewart**
* Designated Teacher: **Mr G Stewart**
* Deputy Designated Teacher: **Mrs C Bowers**
* Deputy Designated Teacher**: Miss J Patton**

**Parents**

**The primary responsibility for safeguarding and protection of children rests with parents who should feel confident about raising any concerns they have in relation to their child.**

Parents can play their part in safeguarding by informing the school.

* If the child has a medical condition or educational need.
* If there are any Court Orders relating to the safety or wellbeing of a parent or child.
* If there is any change in a child’s circumstances for example - change of address, change of contact details, change of name, change of parental responsibility.
* If there are any changes to arrangements about who brings their child to and from school.
* If their child is absent and should email the school with the reason. This assures the school that the parent/carer knows about the absence.
* More information on parental responsibility can be found on the EA website at: [www.eani.org.uk/schools/safeguarding-and-child-protection](http://www.eani.org.uk/schools/safeguarding-and-child-protection)

**It is essential that the school has up to date contact details for the parent/carer.**

**The flowcharts on the pages that follow set out the process that should be followed if you have a child protection concern.**

**APPENDIX 1:**

**If a Parent Has a Potential Child Protection Concern Within the School**

If you have escalated your concern as set out in the above flowchart and are of the view that it has not been addressed satisfactorily, you may revert to the school’s complaints policy. This policy should culminate in the option for you to contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) who has the legislative power to investigate your complaint.

If a parent has a concern about a child’s safety or suspect child abuse within the local community, it should be brought directly to the attention of the Children’s Services Gateway Team.

**APPENDIX 2:**

**Procedure Where the School Has Concerns, or Has Been Given Information, about Possible Abuse by Someone Other Than a Member of Staff**

Member of staff completes the Note of Concern on what has been observed or shared and must

ACT PROMPTLY.

Source of concern is notified that the school will follow up appropriately on the issues raised.

Designated Teacher clarifies/discusses concern with child/ parent/carers and decides if a child protection referral is or is not required.

Child Protection Referral Is Not Required

School may consider other options including monitoring the situation within an agreed timescale; signposting or referring the child/parent/carers to appropriate support services such as the Children’s Services Gateway Team or local Family Support Hub with parental consent, and child/young person’s consent (where appropriate).

Child Protection Referral Is Required

Designated Teacher seeks consent of the parent/carer and/or the child (if they are competent to give this) unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm then telephones the Children’s Services Gateway Team and/or the PSNI if a child is at immediate risk. He/she submits a completed UNOCINI referral form within 24 hours.

Where appropriate the source of the concern will be informed as to the action taken. The Designated Teacher will maintain a written record of all decisions and actions taken and ensure that this record is appropriately and securely stored.

Designated Teacher should consult with the Principal or other relevant staff before deciding upon action to be taken, always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required advice may be sought from a CPSS officer

Staff member discusses concerns with the Designated Teacher or Deputy Designated Teacher in his/her absence and provides note of concern.

**APPENDIX 3:**

**Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against a Member of Staff**

**KEY POINTS**

Lead Individual learns of an allegation against a member of staff and informs the Chair/Vice Chair of BoG as appropriate.

Allegation addressed through relevant disciplinary procedures.

Alternatives to precautionary suspension imposed

Precautionary suspension under Child Protection procedures imposed

Precautionary suspension is not appropriate and the matter is concluded.

**Possible Outcomes**

Following on from establishing the facts, seeking advice from Key Agencies and discussion with the Chair and/or BOG to agree a way forward from the options below.

**Guidance on the Next Steps**

Lead individual then establishes the facts, seeks advice from the key agencies as appropriate, usually through informal discussion.