

## This is an overview of our Child Protection Policy - the full Policy is available on request from School

The details included within this overview are those which are pertinent to how Child Protection issues are managed in Donard School

### Rationale

*'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.'*

### Responding to Child Abuse

In Donard School we recognise that all staff play an important role in the area of Child Protection. It is also important that all relevant agencies involved in this delicate area co-operate fully for the benefit of the child or young person. Therefore it is essential that every member of staff understands clearly the procedures to be followed within the school. These procedures are in line with the Southern Education and Library Board Child Protection Procedures, the DENI circular 1999/10 [or any DE guidance on Child Protection which replaces it] and the Southern Area Child Protection Procedures [see Appendix 1].

Donard School recognises that it holds a pastoral responsibility towards the young people and children in its care and will take reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and safety is preserved.

Child Protection is approached through the development of personal and social skills and a formal PDMU programme and by creating a trusting climate within which children feel able to share their thoughts and feelings.

Partnership between home and school is a high priority, but in the case of suspected child abuse, our first and only responsibility is to the child. This may mean that parents are not informed or consulted in some instances until School is advised to do so.

All staff try to ensure that children keep safe, remain healthy and are able, where possible, to protect themselves. Suspected cases or staff concerns when reported are left to the appropriate agencies for any further investigation.

#### Aims

To ensure the safety and protection of all pupils in Donard School

To provide procedures in the School to deal with suspected cases of abuse and address concerns in relation to the needs of children

To ensure that all staff, Governors and volunteers are fully aware of the procedures for Child Protection

To co-operate with all relevant agencies involved in Child Protection

To respond to and act upon guidelines, procedures and requirements to ensure the protection of all pupils

### General Guiding Principles

Pupils should be listened to and taken seriously.

Due care should be taken to interpret correctly apparent signs of abuse or neglect.

In any incident the pupil's welfare should always be paramount; this overrides all other considerations.

A proper balance should be struck between protecting pupils and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the pupil's interests will always come first.

At no time will pupils be promised confidentiality where abuse is alleged, although they will be reassured that information will be disclosed only to those professionals who need to know.

School should establish and maintain effective procedures for dealing with accidents, complaints and alleged or suspected incidents of abuse.

### The Safeguarding Team in Donard School consists of:

Mrs E Lavery Principal

Mrs A Archer Designated Teacher

Mrs R Martin Deputy Designated Teacher

Mr P Carlin Designated Governor

### Roles within the Safeguarding Team

In Donard School the following roles have been established

**Mrs A Archer** is the Designated Teacher [DT] for Child Protection

**Mrs R Martin** is the Deputy Designated Teacher [DDT] for Child Protection

### Procedures for Staff Members and Guidelines

If a pupil discloses abuse or a member of staff is suspicious it is their duty, in line with training, to

**Receive Reassure React Record Refer**

It is NOT the responsibility of staff within the school to make extensive enquiries about a suspected case of child abuse. This is the responsibility of PSNI and DHSS.

### **Confidentiality**

Staff are reminded at all times of the need for confidentiality. This is reiterated in Child Protection Training and within the Staff Handbook.

### **Staff Development and Training**

All staff are trained to recognise symptoms and signs of abuse and to be familiar with procedures for reporting and methods of recording. Regular refresher training for all staff occurs at least once every two years.

The Principal, Chair of Governors and at least one other Governor receive appropriate and up-to-date Child Protection training, commissioned or provided by EA Southern Region.

At least one Governor on any staff recruitment and selection interview panel will be trained in recruitment and selection including Child Protection issues.

Newly appointed teachers, classroom assistants, ancillary staff, all substitute staff and volunteers are made aware of arrangements regarding Child Protection by the DT or the DDT before taking up duty and all are required to have Access NI clearance before they can work in the School.

### **The Preventative Curriculum**

Teachers in Donard School are committed to ensuring the safety of all pupils. Many aspects of 'keeping safe' are addressed within the Curriculum, especially in Senior School e.g. keeping safe in the kitchen, stranger danger, dangers of smoking and alcohol and bullying. A 3 year rolling programme for PDMU also supports the work of the School.

Guidelines are also in place regarding:

Use of the Internet

Use of photographs and videos

Use of mobile phones

Use of other digital devices

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Child Protection Policy will be monitored and evaluated on an on-going basis through consultation with relevant stakeholders.





## The Use of Mobile Phones in Donard School

Pupils are not allowed to have mobile phones in school. Where a pupil does bring a phone to school it should be removed and locked away until home time. This rule also applies to other pupils/students visiting the school.

Staff/parent mobile phones should not be kept on in areas where children gather, due to their photographic functions. This includes the classrooms, corridors, Assembly Hall, Dining Hall, playgrounds and foyer.

Under no circumstances should mobile phones be taken into any areas where intimate care procedures take place. Phones should not be taken into changing areas or pupil toilets (this includes the swimming pool and leisure centre).

Images or video clips of pupils should not be stored or sent on mobile phones.

Visitors in School may require to have their phone switched on e.g. Social Workers, Healthcare Workers. However, at no time should they be allowed to bring their phone into any changing or toileting area.

THESE GUIDELINES EXIST FOR THE SAFETY OF BOTH PUPILS AND STAFF