

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Viewforth High School



Last Reviewed: 04/02/2022

Reviewers:

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Child Protection, Safeguarding and Wellbeing Policy

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers.

Within our school we aim to create an environment in which all pupils are safe and feel safe in school. There is a strong, robust and proactive response from adults that reduces the risk of harm to children. Adults working with them know and understand the indicators that may suggest that a child/young person is suffering or is at risk of suffering harm. (Ref: *How good is our school 4th Edition*)

We are committed to practice in a way that protects all children and young people and fully adhere to the processes and procedures contained within [Fife's Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidance 2016](#).

This document states that:

- All education staff have important roles in protecting children from abuse and neglect and in identifying children who may be at risk of abuse.
- The protection and wellbeing of the child must remain at the heart of all considerations and decisions

The purpose of this policy is;

- to protect children and young people attending Viewforth High School.
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection;

Staff at Viewforth High School believe that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people and to keep them safe.

If there is an immediate risk to the child contact the Police.

Police Contact Centre 101 (in emergencies dial 999)

Social Work Contact Centre 03451 551503

E-mail sw.contactctr@fife.gov.uk

Out of Hours 03451 550099

What constitutes Child Protection?

'Child protection' means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect.

Physical abuse - causing of physical harm

Emotional abuse - persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development

Sexual abuse - may involve physical contact, [and/or] non-contact activities

Neglect - the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland/pages/3/>

Information sharing and GDPR

- All information received about young people is treated confidentially and is not shared without parental consent, however, this is different in the context of child protection.
- You cannot hold on to information when intervention is needed to ensure a pupil's safety
- *"When a child or young person is at risk of abuse or neglect, confidentiality is not an option.*
- *You must share information with the Child Protection Coordinator or Headteacher where this is necessary to protect a child or young person."*

For more information check the [Fife Child Protection Minisite](#).

Mandatory E-Learning Modules

- GIRFEC & Child Protection
- Prevent 2018
- Human Trafficking Programme
- Data Protection

Each e-learning must be completed every academic year by all staff who work in school.

Fife Key Child Protection Principles

Fife Child Protection Committee's 'Six for Safety' promotes best practice when working with children and families. Developed from analysis and learning from Significant Case Reviews, these are day-to-day ways of working to support and protect children and young people and support improved decision making.

1. **Child at the Centre** – The needs of children and young people are at the centre of all practice.
2. **Relationships** – Ensuring that all relationships with children, parents/carers are effective, constructive and are central to improving wellbeing and minimising risk of harm.
3. **Quality Assessment and Planning** – All assessments and plans are accurate and effective by achieving outcomes in meeting needs and minimising risk of harm. All available resources and tools are used to best effect.
4. **Information Exchange and Communication** – Relevant information is shared appropriately, clear lines of responsibility for action are understood across partners and communication is effective in minimising potential risks.
5. **Early Intervention** – Early and effective intervention is achieved where possible, minimising risk of harm to children and young people.
6. **Professional Support and Oversight** – A culture of effective management support and/or supervision is embedded which embodies the values and principles of Fife Child Protection Committee.



We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and wellbeing.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a Child Protection Co-ordinator for Child Protection for the school and also a Depute Child Protection Coordinator.
- Adopting the processes and procedures contained within Fife's Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidance.
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through training, support and quality assurance measures.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.
- Using our procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agency's who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistle blowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, one to one discussions.

Key People at Viewforth High School

It is important to recognise that child protection is everyone's responsibility. However, there are several key figures.

Should there be any child protection concerns they will be managed by:

Child Protection Leads

Child Protection Coordinator (CPC)

- Jack Wilson

Depute Child Protection Coordinator (DCPC)

- Lesley Hill

Wider Team Involved in Child Protection

A wider team also complete and support child protection work in the school

House Teams

Craigendal

- Jack Wilson – Depute Head Teacher
- Lara Robertson – PT Guidance
- Callum Simpson - PT Guidance

Fidra

- Alistair Stewart – Depute Head Teacher
- Christine Edwards – PT Guidance
- Carrie Beesley - PT Guidance

MacGregor

- June Greig – Depute Head Teacher
- Lynne Hughes – PT Guidance
- Brian Bowman – PT Guidance

Whole School

- Lisa Moore – Head Teacher
- Euan Connolly – Family Support Worker
- PC Stewart Burnside – Positive Engagement Officer

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up based on overarching legislation and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely but not exclusively:

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, Scottish Government, 2021 Child Protection Guidance 2021 (theapsgroup.scot)

Inter-agency Child Protection Procedures – Fife (2016)

https://www.fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/194970/CPC-Inter-Agency-Guidance-Final-Master-27.09.16.pdf

Getting it Right for Every Child Policy <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/latest/>

General Data Protection Regulation/Data Protection Act 2018 <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/1/contents>

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents/enacted>

Children (Scotland) Act 1995 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-children-children-scotland-act-1995-regulations-guidance-volume-1-support-protection-children-families/documents/>

Children Scotland Act (2020) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2020/16/body/enacted>

Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/research/education-additional-support-for-learning-scotland-act-2004/>

National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development in Scotland (2012)

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/child-protection/national-framework-cp-learning-2012>

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/08/04111811/1>

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child <http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Our-mission/UN-Convention/>