

Glassary and Tayvallich Primary Schools - CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Rationale

Child protection is both a professional responsibility and a corporate duty for all staff in Argyll and Bute Community Services. Child protection refers to the processes involved in consideration, assessment and planning of required action, together with the actions themselves, where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm. Child Protection Guidance provides overall direction for agencies and professional disciplines where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm.

Glassary and Tayvallich Primary Schools are committed to making sure that procedures are in place to ensure the care, welfare and protection of its pupils. The school promotes good relationships amongst staff and pupils and encourages pupils to show concern and understanding of others.

This policy is needed to ensure that procedures are in place which support pupils and protect them from harm, abuse and neglect. It will make sure that all staff are vigilant about pupils' health and safety, are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are clear about child protection issues.

Principles

This policy is based on the following principles:

- It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that children are protected from harm, abuse and neglect
- Children feel safe in an environment where mutual trust, respect and confidence are evident
- Schools have a particular role in safeguarding children and in educating them about risk
- Joint working with other agencies is essential to good practice in supporting children and their families
- Joint working with partner agencies will facilitate the transfer of relevant information to relevant people.
- We act on disclosures by young people or other concerns directly and cannot discuss these with parents or carers first.

Responsibilities

- The Child Protection Coordinator in Glassary and Tayvallich Primary Schools is Lena Carter, Head Teacher. In the event of the absence of the Child Protection Coordinator, concerns should be passed to the Principal Teacher or most senior staff member on site.
- We operate within an interagency framework. If a young person makes a disclosure under any child protection category, we will, without fail, pass it on to our colleagues in Children and Families Social Work. Colleagues in social work confer when

appropriate with the police and health (in an IRD (initial referral discussion) to establish whether or not a joint social services/police investigation is required.

- All staff report **any concerns** to the Child Protection Co-ordinator. The categories of concern include

(a) Physical abuse

(b) Emotional abuse

(c) Sexual abuse

(d) Criminal exploitation

(e) Child Trafficking

(f) Neglect

(g) Female Genital Mutilation

(h) Forced Marriage

Staff may have concerns beyond these categories. **All concerns** are referred to the Child Protection Coordinator.

The Child Protection Coordinator will ensure that

- Legislation in respect of Child Protection is adhered to in Glassary and Tayvallich Primary Schools (Management Circular 3.23).
- Staff have ready access to key information regarding child protection procedures, the main elements of child abuse and their role and responsibilities in protecting children.
- All staff, including non-teaching staff, will receive an annual update regarding child protection procedures – normally on the first day of session.
- Staff (including student teachers) who join mid-session are given training on arriving in school.
- Staff have access to appropriate in-service training should the school or members of staff regard this as desirable or necessary.
- Staff are given appropriate advice regarding child protection on educational excursions or visits.
- Staff appointments and adult helpers are all dependant on PVG Registration before commencing any duties.

- All visitors to our school are made aware of our child protection procedures.
- Appropriate procedures are in place when other adults are in direct contact with pupils and young people.
- Contact details are in place for dealing with referrals on school days which fall on public holidays.

All staff (teaching and non-teaching) will ensure that

- they are aware of their professional and corporate responsibilities in relation to child protection.
- they are aware of the Authority guidelines and where to locate them. (Management Circular 3.23 Child Protection)
- they note all child protection concerns and pass them to the child protection coordinator immediately.
- they keep a dated note of all matters relating to their concern.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Child Protection Coordinator will, within the school's established procedures, review this policy in response to need and experience.

Last reviewed August 2024.

All staff - please email lena.carter@argyll-bute.gov.uk to confirm that you have attended or accessed the Child Protection annual update briefing and read the 2024 policy on Child Protection for Glassary and Tayvallich Primary Schools.