

### **Child Protection Ethos**

We in Gaelscoil Aodha Rua have a responsibility for the pastoral care, general welfare, well-being and safety of the children in our care. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching will be trained to be alert to the signs of possible abuse and will know the procedures to be followed in the event of an incident of a Child Protection nature.

This document summarises the main actions which will be taken in the event of any incident of a Child Protection nature.

### **Principals of Child Protection Policy**

The general principals, which underpin our work in the area of Child Protection are those set out in the:

- UN Convention on the Rights of a Child
- NI Children's Order of 1995.
- DE Pastoral Care in Schools
- Regional Policy on Child Protection Procedures publications.

### **Our School Safeguarding Team**

#### **Designated Officers for Child Protection:**

Móna Uí Dhochartaigh & Caitlín Anderson

#### **Deputy Designated Officers:**

Laoise Ní Choinn & Clóna Molloy

#### **Designated Governor:**

Aisling Uí Choinn

***Photos on display on Child Protection board)***

### **Rights of the Child**

All children have the right to feel safe, secure, loved and valued, both at home and in school. They also have the right to be listened to and to be taken seriously.

### **Types of Child Abuse**

Child Abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, by those known to them or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of Child Abuse and a child may suffer from more than one of them:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual Abuse / Exploitation
- Domestic Violence (passive/active)

All staff in our school have a responsibility to be vigilant and to watch for signs of possible abuse:

- Unexplained marks or bruises
- Changes in child's behaviour/interactions
- Change in appearance (weight loss, personal hygiene etc)
- Signs of self-harm
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Hunger, tiredness, poor hygiene, frequent absences

### **Role of Parents**

Parents can play their part in creating a positive Child Protection ethos in our school by:

- Familiarising themselves with school policies
- Explaining all absences
- Informing school of changes in collection arrangements
- Keeping school informed on changes in family circumstances
- Raising any concerns they have about their own / another child with the school
- Encouraging their child to trust and talk to school staff

### **Links to Other School Policies**

- Collection Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Permission Policy
- Administration of Medicine
- Safe use of Internet
- Images Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

### **As a parent, how can I raise a concern about a Child Protection issue regarding my own / another child?**

- Speak with the child's class teacher.
- Speak with Designated / Deputy Designated Child Protection Officer (Móna, Caitlín, Laoise, Clíona)
- Speak / Write to Chair of Board of Governors (contact details in office)
- Ring Gateway Team on 0800 783 7745
- Ring PSNI on 0845 600 80000

### **How does the school respond to concerns of a Child Protection nature?**

- Staff member will make notes of the disclosure / observations that have concerned them.
- Disclosure / Observations will be discussed with school Child Protection Officer(s) and Principal.
- Advice will be sought from Education Authority CP service.
- If a referral is necessary, a call will be made to Gateway Team (Social Services)
- If the suspected abuser is the child's parent, SS / PSNI will contact them.
- If the suspected abuser is not the child's parent, the school will inform the parent of the incident.

### **How will the school respond to an allegation of a Child Protection nature against a staff member?**

- A written record of the allegation will be made immediately.
- If the allegation is against the principal, the Designated CP officer will deal with it.
- If the allegation is not about the principal, the principal will deal with the allegation.
- The Chair of the BOG will be informed immediately.
- Advice will be sought from Education Authority CP team.
- If a referral is necessary, Social Services and / or PSNI will be informed.
- If a referral is not necessary, a staff disciplinary procedure will commence & a decision will be made regarding the possible suspension of the staff member.

### **Useful Phone Numbers**

**Gaelscoil Aodha Rua: 028 877 53762**  
**Gateway Team 0800 783 7745**  
**PSNI 0845 600 80000**

## **Gaelscoil Aodha Rua**



## **Child Protection Summary 2017-18**

Our full policy on Child Protection and all information pertaining to Child Protection, including flow-charts, is on display on the 'Safeguarding' noticeboard outside the office. If you would like a full copy of the Child Protection policy, please call the school office on:  
028 877 53762.

