

**Response:**

In the event of an allegation or disclosure of child abuse, the member of staff will react in a professional manner.

**Receive:**

Listen and accept what the child says but not ask any leading questions.

**Reassure:**

Ensure that the child is reassured that he/she has done the correct thing to talk about it, and will be safe, and that their interests come first.

**React:**

Only to ensure that the child is safe and secure. Explain to the child what they (the member of staff) will have to do next.

**Record:**

Make a note of what has been seen or heard and the date and time.

**Report:**

Report to the designated teacher as soon as there is any concern for a child.

This leaflet is intended as a summary of the arrangements for Safeguarding in the school.

The complete policy for Child Protection and Safeguarding along with other safeguarding policies are available from the school office on request.

A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our children learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son/daughter's care/education please contact the school and arrange a meeting with the class teacher and/or Principal.

We would also encourage you to attend our Parent/Teacher meetings so that members of staff can keep you informed regarding your child's progress and development

**How a parent can voice a concern:**

I have a concern about my/a child's safety

I can talk to the class teacher

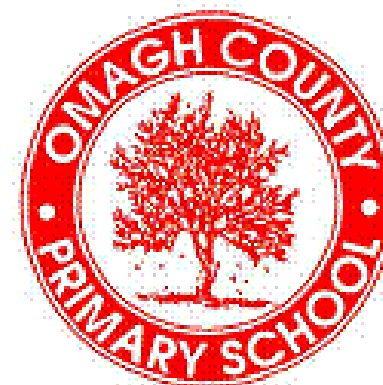
If I am still concerned, I can talk to the designated teacher for child protection  
Mrs A Dempsey or the  
Principal Ms J Funston

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the  
Chair of the Board of Governors,  
**Mr M Winters**

At any time I can talk to a social worker at Western Trust  
Tel: 028 71314 090 or **Out of Hours:**  
Regional Emergency Social Work Service Tel: 028 9504 9999  
5pm-9am (Mon -Thurs) 5pm Fri - 9am Mon  
*This is a 365 day service (including Public Holidays).*  
OR  
PSNI Public Protection Branch Western Trust  
Tel: 028 7121 0770 / 101  
OR  
NI Public Service Ombudsman 0800343424

# Omagh County Primary School and Nursery

## Mission Statement "Every Child Matters"



## Safeguarding and Child Protection

### Parent Summary

Our full Child Protection Policy can be viewed on the school website or a paper copy can be obtained from the school office.

**September 2021**

The Child Protection Policy at Omagh County Primary School and Nursery seeks to support each child's development in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence.

It provides guidance to all adults working in the school on the detection and procedures to follow should abuse or neglect of a child be suspected. The over-riding concern of all staff is the care, welfare and safety of each child.

In their contact with pupils, staff follow the guidelines and procedures set out in DENI publication 'Child Protection and Safeguarding (2019)'.

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

- ⦿ Children should be listened to and taken seriously
- ⦿ Children have the right to be protected from all forms of emotional, physical or sexual abuse and from neglect or exploitation.
- ⦿ The child is kept at the centre of the process
- ⦿ A balance should be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict, the child's interests must always come first

If the level of concern over the safety of a child is such that social services involvement is deemed to be necessary, the school's designated or deputy designated CP teacher will make contact. The EA's Child Protection Officers may be contacted for guidance on this.

#### School Safeguarding Team:

Members of the Schools' Safeguarding Team are: -

*The Chair of the Board of Governors* - Mr M Winters

*The Designated Governor for Child Protection* - Mr J Caldwell

*The School Principal* - Miss J Funston

*The Designated Teacher for Child Protection* - Mrs A Dempsey

*The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection* - Mrs E Alcorn, Ms K Bunce, Mrs E Daley

Safeguarding and Child Protection are infused throughout the curriculum at Omagh County Primary School and Nursery...where EVERY child matters.

Children are encouraged to share their concerns and they are regularly reminded of the identity and roles of the designated and deputy designated Child Protection teachers.

#### **Principles**

In order to protect our pupils we at Omagh County Primary School and Nursery will adhere to the following procedures.

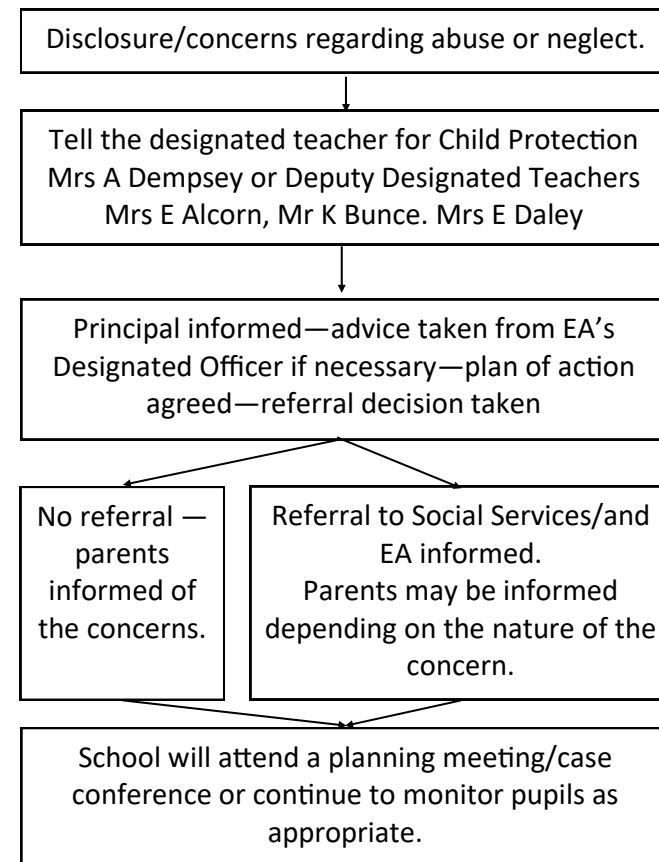
- All staff teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers will have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect is suspected.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo a vetting procedure if necessary, in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.
- All teaching and ancillary staff will attend a Child Protection training programme organised by the Designated Teacher or EA Child Protection Officer.
- Children will be supervised at all times while in the school grounds/premises.
- When it is necessary to change the child's normal travel arrangements permission will only be given on receipt of a written request or telephone call by a parent/guardian.
- All visitors to the school must report to the Secretary's office and sign in.

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will be responded to sensitively in our school. All staff will be vigilant at all times and will aim through the preventative curriculum raise awareness of the distress caused by bullying behaviours with pupils, staff and parents, its forms and consequences.

All staff at Omagh County Primary School and Nursery will ensure that all children are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being subjected to bullying behaviours or have any other concerns.

The following diagram shows the procedures we are required to follow and is based upon the procedure described in The Department of Education publication 'Child Protection and Safeguarding (2019)'.

#### **Procedure when the school has concerns or had been given information about possible abuse.**



**In the interests of the child, staff may need to share information given to them with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be informed, in strictest confidence.**