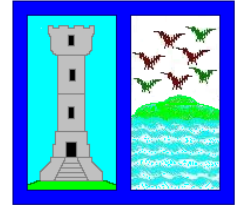




BURNHAVEN



SCHOOL

Burnhaven School

Child Protection Policy

1. Rationale

Children have the right to be protected from abuse and harm at all times and in all situations. UNCRC Articles 19 and 34

This policy guides the school in protecting those rights to help ensure that the child is kept safe. This sits within GIRFEC strategy and meets the wellbeing indicator of "Safe".

2. Aims

Burnhaven's vision is to be a Haven where Futures begin, a safe space which allows children to reach their potential and prepares them for a successful future.

All staff working in the school have a part to play in ensuring that children are safe. It is therefore essential that everyone in the school is aware of the child protection policy and the part they need to play to protect children.

Staff and volunteers in schools are well placed to observe physical, psychological or emotional changes in children that may indicate some form of child abuse. Also because of the close and trusting relationship that frequently exists between staff and pupils it may be that a child who is experiencing some form of abuse will share information in some way with them.

It is vital that all staff know what action to take should they have any concerns about a child or should they receive information which suggests that the child may be experiencing some form of abuse. The procedures outlined in this policy are designed both to safeguard the wellbeing of the child and to ensure that all school staff know how to respond if they are concerned or become aware that a child may have been abused.

The school policy aims to provide clear and unambiguous guidance for staff. Should any aspect of the policy or the guidance within it be unclear to you then please contact the Designated Person for Child Protection: Anita Buchan Head Teacher

3. Key Terms

- **What is Child Protection?**

"Child protection means protecting a child from abuse or neglect"

"Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a likelihood or risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect."

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014.

Child Protection is collective responsibility.

- **What is abuse and neglect?**

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child either by inflicting harm or by failing to prevent significant harm. There are four types of abuse.

- **Physical Abuse** – Causing of physical harm; hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning or suffocating. May not be intended but be cause of adult losing control.

Indicators: suspicious bruising, explanation is conflicting or not consistent with injury.

- **Sexual Abuse** – Any act involving the child or young person in any activity for the sexual gratification whether or not it is claimed the child consented. It includes forcing or enticing a child to take part but does not need to be physical. It may be taking pictures, using inappropriate language.

Indicators: bizarre, advanced or unusual sexual knowledge or play, avoid being alone with people such as family or friends, withdrawn, physical soreness.

- **Emotional Abuse** – persistent ill-treatment such as conveying to a child that they are worthless or inadequate, imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations, causing a child to be frightened, exploitation or corruption. It is involved in all types of abuse or it can be independent.

Indicators: comfort seeking, inappropriate emotional responses, inability to cope with mistakes, disproportionate fear of parents being contact, extreme passivity or aggression.

- **Neglect** – Persistent failure to meet a child's physical and/or psychological needs in an age appropriate or failing to protect from harm. Early intervention is key.

Indicators: poor appearance and hygiene, health and developmental problems, poor attendance or missed appointments, poor emotional regulation and social skills, lack of supervision or care giving.

- **What are risk factors?**

It is unusual for children to be abused by strangers, it is more likely that they know the person involved and have a relationship with them. This, however, includes having built a relationship with someone online over time.

Children, therefore, may be at risk in a wide range of situations including, but not limited to, at home, at clubs, in residential settings and in online communities.

Risks increase when families have reduced capacity for supporting their children to stay safe e.g have a disability of their own, struggle with addiction, struggle with own mental health or are not able to monitor technology etc

4. Resources

GIRFEC Aberdeenshire Website

Child Protection Concern Advice and Information Leaflet - (girfec-aberdeenshire.org)

[Child Protection in Education Professional Learning Framework \(asn-aberdeenshire.org\)](http://asn-aberdeenshire.org)

Burnhaven internet safety policy (under development 2022)

Burnhaven anti bullying policy

5. Roles and Responsibilities

As noted above, Child Protection is a responsibility for us all.

Aberdeenshire council have developed training framework to ensure that ALL staff are fully informed about child protection, giving them the knowledge and skills to respond appropriately. Training includes definitions and indicators of harm, risk factors and indicators of risk. This training also includes Harm outside the home or in specific circumstances such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Trafficking, Forced marriage, FGM, Under-age sexual activity and risks online.

The training includes presentations, ALDO modules, briefings and recommends the access to the establishment Codes of Good practice.

The Framework can be found here

[Child Protection in Education Professional Learning Framework \(asn-aberdeenshire.org\)](http://asn-aberdeenshire.org)

Informed	Skilled	Enhanced
Janitorial Team (including care	Teaching Staff (including EAL	Head Teachers
takers & crossing patrol staff)	and Sensory Support)	Depute Head Teachers
Office Staff	Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs)	Principal Teachers of Guidance
Technician Team	Nursing Assistants	Principal Teachers of ASL
Catering Service,	Pupil Support Workers	Education Psychology Service
Cleaning Service,	School Counsellors	Community Learning & Development (CLD)
ASPECTS	Music Instructors	
	ALEC Staff	

6. Our Code of Good Practice 2022

What to do if you notice possible signs of abuse

- Record what you have seen/heard, with dates and time and any action taken
- Signs of physical injury should be described or sketched
- Pass notes immediately to the Child Protection Coordinator

DO NOT INVESTIGATE - this is the role and responsibility of social work and the police

Please contact the Child Protection Coordinator within your area

What to do if a pupil talks to you about abuse by someone else

- ADVISE the pupil that you must pass on information. DO NOT AGREE TO KEEP SECRETS
- LISTEN carefully, allow the pupil to speak without interruption
- REACT calmly and accept what is said
- DO NOT ASK leading questions
- Record what is said in writing (see Making Notes)
- Reassure the pupil that they are not to blame and are doing the right thing by telling
- ACKNOWLEDGE how difficult it must have been for the child. Do not make any judgement
- SHARE with your Child Protection Coordinator immediately

Making notes

- Record accurately what is said in the child's words
- Do not include your personal opinion
- Signs of physical injury should be described in detail or sketched
- Describe the child's behaviour and emotional state
- Sign and date all notes
- Pass notes without delay to your Child Protection Coordinator
- All notes are confidential. They should not be discussed with any person not directly involved with the child

Things you MUST do:

- Treat all pupils with respect
- Respect a pupil's right to personal privacy, whilst not promising confidentiality
- Always take what is said by the pupil at face value - do not doubt what they are saying
- Ensure that your own conduct in is an example of good practice
- Be aware of the potential problems of being alone with a pupil
- Recognise that special caution is required if you are discussing sensitive issues with pupils
- Follow the School Policy and Code of Conduc

Things you MUST not do:

- Exaggerate or trivialise abuse issues
- Have inappropriate physical contact with pupils
- Encourage inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour
- Rely on your good name or that of Burnhaven School to protect you from scrutiny of your conduct
- Think it could never happen to you
- Take a chance when common sense, policy and practice suggest another more prudent approach
- Ignore the Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct operating in Burnhaven School.

The Head Teacher or Child Protection Co-Ordinator will then follow the flow chart.



8. References

- The Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 form statutory footing for child protection and child welfare matters in Scotland.
- National guidance for child protection in Scotland 2021
- The National Framework for Child Protection Learning & Development in Scotland (2012)

9. Agreement and Review

This policy was agreed by school staff in September 2022. Updates will be made and dated annually according to amendments from National or Local authorities.