



Antonine Primary School and ELCC

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers across the whole school community.

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 Falkirk Council

The purpose of this policy is;

- To protect children and young people attending Antonine Primary School and ELCC.
- To protect staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection. Staff at Antonine Primary School and ELCC 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.

GIRFEC – Getting It Right for Every Child

The GIRFEC approach is a national programme of action to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people in Scotland. It requires that all services work together better to support children and young people. This includes strengthening arrangements for information sharing, shared assessment based on a common language and encouraging earlier intervention to ensure that children and young people get the help they need when they need it. It stresses the importance of understanding and assessing risks and needs across all aspects of the child's wellbeing.

Child protection must therefore be seen within the wider context of supporting families and meeting children's needs through GIRFEC. We base GIRFEC principles and values on rights. This means:-

- putting children's needs first
- ensuring that children are listened to and understand the decisions that affect them
- ensuring they get the appropriate co-ordinated support needed to promote their wellbeing, health and development



Information Sharing for Child Protection – General Principles

- the safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child are of central importance when making decisions to lawfully share information with or about them
- children have a right to express their views and have them taken into account when decisions are made about what should happen to them
- the reasons why information needs to be shared and particular actions taken should be communicated openly and honestly with children and, where appropriate, their families
- in general information will normally only be shared with the consent of the child (depending on age and maturity). However, where there are concerns that seeking consent would increase the risk to a child or others or prejudice any subsequent investigation, information may need to be shared **without consent**
- at all times information shared should be relevant, necessary and proportionate to the circumstances of the child and limited to those who need to know
- when gathering information about possible risks to a child, information should be sought from all relevant sources, including services that may be involved with other family members. Relevant historical information should also be taken into account
- when information is shared, a record should be made of when it was shared, with whom, for what purpose, in what form and whether it was disclosed with or without informed consent. Similarly any decision not to share information should also be recorded

As a school 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.



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Our Rights



In 1989, governments across the world promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention says what countries must do so that all children grow as healthy as possible, can learn at school, are protected, have their views listened to, and are treated fairly.

These are our rights.

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

- Valuing them, listening to them and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Member of Staff for Safe Guarding and Child Protection for the school and also a deputy
- Adopting the processes and procedures contained within Falkirk Council's
- 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 up 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 posters, leaflets, one-to-one discussions

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

☐ National Guidance for Child Protection (2014)

http://emppc.org.uk/file/Child_Protection/Scottish_Government_-_National_guidance_for_CP_in_Scotland_2014.pdf

☐ Getting it Right for Every Child Policy

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

☐ Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

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

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

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

☐ Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007

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

☐ United Nations Convention in the Rights of the Child

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/Our-mission/UN-Convention/>

- Falkirk Council Volunteers & Parent Helpers in Schools PVG Scheme Membership
Date: May2014

<http://inside.falkirk.gov.uk/services/childrens/policies-circulars-procedures/docs/volunteers/SC%2060%20Volunteers%20and%20Parent%20Helpers%20in%20Schools.pdf?v=201801161024>

- Falkirk Council Child Protection Practitioners Handbook

<http://inside.falkirk.gov.uk/services/childrens/child-protection/docs/Child%20Protection%20Practitioners%20Handbook.pdf?v=201708031535>

Key documentation relating to Child Protection can be found on:-
Staff share, Write, Child Protection

Contact Details

The **Designated Member of staff for Safeguarding and Child Protection** at Antonine Primary School and ELCC is:

Name: Mrs Jacqueline McLaughlin

Email: antonineprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk

Telephone: 01324 503140

The **Depute Designated Member of Staff for Safeguarding and Child Protection** at Antonine Primary School and ELCC is:

Name: Mrs Clare Casey

Email: antonineprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk

Telephone: 01324 503140

Child Protection and Safeguarding is a priority here.
We are committed to creating safer places by following statutory guidelines on good working practice.
A copy of our policy is available on request.

Your Child Protection and Safeguarding team:



Mrs McLaughlin
Headteacher



Mrs Casey
Depute Headteacher

Please speak to the team, phone on 01324 503140 or email antonineprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk.



We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice.
This policy was last reviewed on: April2024.