BALLYORAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safe Children • Happy Learners • Brighter Futures

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Summary for Parents

Working Together for Every Child ♥

Our Commitment

The Staff and Governors of Ballyoran Primary School have both a primary and a collective responsibility for the welfare and safety of the pupils in our care.

Our Vision

"As a welcoming Inclusive School we aim to provide a safe, happy, caring and stimulating learning environment which will enable each child to develop to his or her full potential – academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually, in preparation for becoming responsible citizens."

Every Child Matters

Working Together

The link between home and school is of vital importance and teachers value the contribution of parents in supporting and informing them about any relevant aspect of the pupils' welfare.

Our Policy

A Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy operates in Ballyoran Primary School. Its aim is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school has clear guidance on the procedures involved where abuse of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the safety of the child and the welfare of our pupils is our paramount consideration. We not only have a moral, but also a legal responsibility to pass on concerns about possible abuse.

Guiding Principles

The following principles form the basis for our Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures:

- Every child has the right to be safe from harm and to have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.
- Children should be listened to and taken seriously.
- In any incident the child's welfare must always be paramount; this overrides all other considerations.

Important Information

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.

How Staff Work

In all their contact with pupils, staff in Ballyoran Primary School follow the guidelines and procedures outlined in the DE 'Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools – A Guide for Schools' (Updated September 2023).

Concerns in the Local Community

If a parent has a concern about a child's safety or suspect child abuse within the local community, it should be brought directly to the attention of the Children's Services Gateway Team.

Reporting a Child Protection Concern within the School

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

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I can talk to the class teacher.

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If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs McGuire, or the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Miss McKernan.

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If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mrs Loney, through school.

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At any time, I can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI Central Referral Unit at 101.

If You Are Still Concerned

If you have escalated your concern as set out in the above flowchart and are of the view that it has not been addressed satisfactorily, you may revert to the school's complaints policy. This policy culminates in the option for you to contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) who has the legislative power to investigate your complaint.

Next Steps in All Cases

In all cases of suspected child abuse, the action that will be taken in Ballyoran Primary School is that of informing Social Services and the Education Authority. The school will NOT be involved in investigating the suspected abuse.

A Safer Tomorrow... ♥

This leaflet is intended as a summary of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures in Ballyoran Primary School. If you require a full copy of this Policy please visit the school website **www.ballyoranps.com** (Click on 'Parents' & 'Safeguarding Children') or contact the school office on **02838352009**.

...Together ♥