



## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Executive Summary for Parents and Guardians

**Introduction:** Anahilt Primary School prioritizes the care, welfare, and safety of all pupils. This policy outlines the procedures to protect children from abuse and neglect, ensuring a safe and supportive environment.

**School Ethos:** The school is committed to creating a happy and welcoming place where children can learn and develop to their full potential. All staff are trained to recognize signs of abuse and know the procedures to follow if abuse is suspected.

### Principles:

- The child's welfare is paramount.
- Children have the right to feel safe and be heard.
- Safeguarding is a shared responsibility among staff, parents, and agencies.
- Decisions and actions must be well-informed and sensitive to the child's circumstances.

### Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Safeguarding Team:** Monitors and reviews safeguarding arrangements, supports the Designated Teacher, and ensures staff training.
- **Board of Governors:** Ensures the school has a Child Protection Policy, appoints designated teachers, and receives regular reports on child protection matters.
- **Principal:** Manages child protection concerns and ensures staff receive annual training.
- **Designated Teacher:** Leads on safeguarding policy, makes referrals to social services, and maintains records of concerns.

### Types of Abuse:

- **Physical Abuse:** Deliberate physical harm.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Persistent emotional maltreatment.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide basic needs.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Exploitation for sexual gratification.
- **Exploitation:** Manipulation for personal gain.

**Parental Involvement:** Parents are encouraged to understand the school's responsibility to protect children and to communicate any concerns. They should inform the school of any changes in their child's circumstances and ensure the school has up-to-date contact information.

**Reporting Concerns:** If parents have concerns about their child's safety, they can speak to the child's teacher, the Designated Teacher (Mr. Smyth), or the Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs. McCune). If still concerned, they can contact the Chair of the Board of Governors or external agencies like the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI Central Referral Unit.

**Conclusion:** The school is dedicated to safeguarding all pupils and working closely with parents to ensure a safe and supportive environment for every child.