

## Disclosures

Where staff see signs which cause them concern, or if a child makes a disclosure, they should follow the procedure below:

- **Receive** – actively listen and accept what is being said without interrupting, displaying shock or disbelief and support the child. Seek some clarification from the child with tact and understanding. Concerns should be brought immediately to the attention of either a teacher or the Designated Teacher.
- **Reassure** - the child that they are not at fault and have done the right thing to talk about it. Reassure them that the information will be disclosed only to those professionals who need to know.
- **Respond** – stay calm, act promptly and support the child. Explain what you are going to do, what they have to do next and to whom they have to talk.
- **Record** - make a concise written record of their concerns or a child's disclosure using his/her exact words. Signs of physical injury observed should be observed in detail. Notes must be made as soon as possible after the incident to ensure an expedient response, and certainly within 24 hours, to maintain the accuracy and content of the report. Staff should **not** ask the child to write an account of their disclosure for the record.
- **Refer** - concerns or disclosures to the Designated/Deputy Teacher for Child Protection..



Mrs Heather McDowell  
Designated Teacher



Mrs Kathryn Patterson  
Deputy Designated Teacher



Mrs J Bled  
Deputy Designated Teacher



Mr Phillip Elliot  
Principal

CLOUNAGH  
JUNIOR HIGH

*'Honour and Loyalty'*



## Child Protection information for school visitors



**This leaflet contains important and sensitive information for adults.**

**If this is your first visit to our school please take a moment to read this document.**

# Safeguarding Children and Child Protection: induction leaflet for School Visitors

We in Clounagh Junior High have a responsibility for the pastoral, general welfare and safety of the children in our care.



We will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents

and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching should be alert to the signs of possible abuse and should know the procedures to be followed. This document sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school.

***Remember: A child may suffer or be at risk of suffering from one or more types of abuse and abuse may take place on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time.***

## TYPES OF ABUSE

**Physical Abuse** is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, confinement to a room or cot, or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

**Emotional Abuse** is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that he is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as he meets the needs of the other person. It may involve causing a child to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a child.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision.

**Sexual Abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Child Sexual Exploitation** is a form of sexual abuse in which a person(s) exploits, coerces

and/or manipulates a child or young person into engaging in some form of sexual activity in return for something the child needs or desires and/or for the gain of the person (s) perpetrating or facilitating the abuse.

When we become aware of young people below the age of consent engaging in sexual activity or, where we have concerns about a post 16 year old in a sexual relationship the Designated Teacher has a duty to share this information with Social Services



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED FOR A CHILD:

Where staff become aware of concerns or are approached by a child they should not investigate – this is a matter for Social Services/ PSNI. but should report these concerns immediately to the Designated Teacher and full notes should be made.

These notes or records should be factual, objective and include what was seen, said, heard or reported. They should include details of the place and time and who was present and should be given to the designated teacher. The person who reports the incident must treat the matter in confidence.