Dunoon Primary School and ELC

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

2026-2027

Rationale

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)
Children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury, abuse, neglect, mistreatment, or exploitation.

Underpinned by the *UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act*, our policy ensures children's rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled:

- **Article 19 (Protection from violence, abuse, and neglect):** Children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury, abuse, neglect, mistreatment, or exploitation.
- **Article 28 (Right to education):** Every child has a right to an education in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment.

Within our school and ELC we aim to create an environment in which all pupils are safe and feel safe in school and ELC, underpinned by a rights-based approach (UNCRC) and the Care Inspectorate Quality Improvement Framework (specifically Key Question 1 & QI 3.1) alongside the Health and Social Care Standards. There is a strong, robust and proactive response from adults that reduces the risk of harm to children. Adults working with them know and understand the indicators that may suggest that a child/young person is suffering or is at risk of suffering harm. (How Good Is Our School? 4th Edition) Child Protection is both a professional responsibility and a corporate duty for all staff in Argyll and Bute. Dunoon Primary School is committed to ensuring that procedures are in place to secure the care, welfare and protection of all its pupils. The school promotes good relationships amongst staff and children and encourage children to show concern

and understanding of others. This policy upholds the procedures that are in place to support pupils and protect them from harm, abuse and neglect. It will ensure that all staff are vigilant about children's health and safety, are aware of their roles and responsibilities and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that children are protected from harm, abuse and neglect.

Our Child Protection Policy principles are:

- **A Rights-Based Approach:** Grounded in the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act, ensuring children's safety, participation, and best interests are central.
- **Children feel safe** in an environment where mutual trust, respect and confidence are evident.
- **Dunoon Primary School has a particular role** in safeguarding and in educating pupils about risks.
- **Joint working with other agencies** promotes good practice in supporting children and their families.
- **Joint working with partner agencies** will facilitate the transfer of relevant information so relevant people are clear about child protection issues.

Roles and Responsibilities

Head Teacher & Leadership

- The Child Protection Co-ordinator at Dunoon Primary School is the Head Teacher – **Brenda Reid**.
- The Depute Child Protection Co-ordinator is the Depute Head Teacher – **Susan McEwan**

The Child Protection Co-ordinator will ensure that:

- legislation and national guidance (including the *National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland*) in respect of Child Protection is adhered to in Dunoon Primary School (see Standard Circular 3.23).
- safe, values-based recruitment and vetting procedures (PVG) are adhered to for all staff and volunteers.
- national and authority guidelines are followed by all members of staff.
- staff have ready access to current information regarding child protection legislation, the main elements of child abuse (including CSE, CCE, cyber-safety, and domestic abuse), and their role and responsibilities in protecting children.
- all referrals are systematically and securely logged.
- all staff, including non-teaching, will receive an annual update regarding child protection procedures.

- staff have access to appropriate in-service training should the school or members of staff regard this as desirable or necessary.
- staff are given appropriate advice regarding child protection on educational excursions or visits.

All Staff

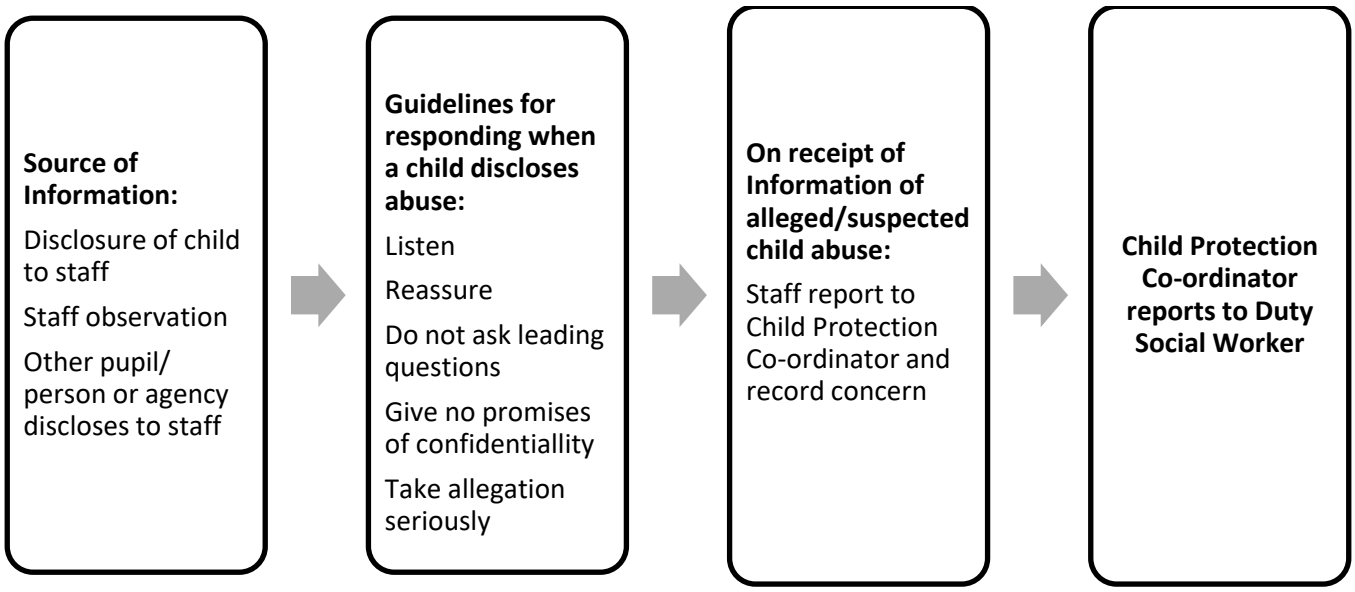
All staff (teaching, ELC practitioners, support staff, supply staff, and visiting professionals) will ensure that:

- they are aware of their professional and corporate responsibilities in relation to child protection.
- they are familiar with the indicators of abuse.
- they are aware of the Authority guidelines and where to locate them.
- they note all child protection concerns and pass them onto the Head Teacher or Depute Child Protection Co-ordinator immediately – Principal Teachers and Head Teacher will record events on Click and Go / ELC Pastoral Notes as well as relevant paperwork.

Procedures

Should an allegation of abuse be reported the following procedures must be followed as outlined below. For the purposes of child protection, the Child Protection Co-ordinator in Dunoon Primary School is: **Brenda Reid, Head Teacher**, supported by the Depute Child Protection Co-ordinator, **Susan McEwan, Depute Head Teacher**. If the Child Protection Co-ordinator or Depute is not available, concerns should be passed directly to Duty Social Work or Police Scotland, following GIRFEC information-sharing principles.

For any child protection incident or allegation arising within the ELC setting, a formal **eForms Notification will be submitted to the Care Inspectorate** in accordance with statutory reporting requirements.



Curriculum

Safeguarding is a golden thread that runs through the curriculum. The aim is to support the development of learner's knowledge, skills and resilience to keep themselves safe and protect themselves and to develop an understanding of the world so that they can respond to a range of issues and potential risky situations arising through their lives. As such, it permeates many features of the education experience. (Argyll & Bute Education Management Circular No 3.23)

Children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, through teaching and learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. This is in order to help children stay safe, recognise when they do not feel safe and identify who they might or can talk to. This curriculum extends across our indoor and outdoor ELC environments, ensuring age-appropriate awareness of safety, risk-benefit exploration, and digital/online safety.