



Introduction

Uryside Primary School is a school where everyone works together as a community to create an ethos where all the children are nurtured, respected, included, inspired and motivated in reaching their full potential, not only academically, but as confident individuals ready to actively grasp and follow their dreams in the future.

Uryside School Ethos

Our school ethos endorses the Scottish Commissioner's vision and Article 19 of the UN Convention of Rights of the Child.

"Children must be kept safe from harm and protected...."

Uryside School stakeholders, staff and children continually strive and are committed to safe guarding each child in a respected, included and safe

'A Vision for Scotland Right Now'

By Children and Young People



Scotland's Commissioner for Children & Young People

Dealing with Child Abuse

In the context of these guidelines, the term "Child Abuse" incorporates suspected as well as actual abuse of children. Provided there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, each instance of actual or suspected child Abuse must be reacted to and followed up as indicated in these guidelines.

The Inter Agency child Protection Guidelines for Aberdeenshire – NESPCPC Child Protection Guidelines identifies five categories of child abuse which must be recorded and acted upon:

- Physical Injury
- Non-Organic Failure to Thrive
- Emotional Abuse/Emotional Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Neglect

Fuller details of these categories can be found in the NESPCPC Child Protection Guidelines (Chapter 1)

Any member of staff who has abuse reported to them should, without delay, contact the Head Teacher, who is the designated member of staff dealing with all such instances. If the Head Teacher is not immediately available please contact our

school depute. If no senior management is contactable a Cluster School Head Teacher should be immediately alerted to provide support and guidance.

Where the Head Teacher judges that there is evidence of abuse or potential danger to a child then she will contact the Divisional Social Work Department in accordance with the NESPCPC Child Protection Guidelines.

Full copies of these guidelines are located in the following locations:

- Staffroom
- Head Teacher's Office

Annual Actions

Each year Uryside School will publish information through the parent handbook making parents aware of the school's Child Protection Guidelines. In particular this will make parents aware that in situations where there is a possibility that a child could be at risk of abuse or neglect, the school is required to refer the child to Social Work, the Police or the Reporter and that under these circumstances, the parents would not normally be consulted first.

In addition staff will be informed and updated on an annual basis on the School's Child Protection Guidelines.

Guidelines for Staff Dealing with Child Abuse

The following guidelines for dealing disclosures have been devised to assist any member of staff who may have to respond to such a situation being brought to their attention.

Dealing with Disclosures

Receive	Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief Accept what is said Take notes
Reassure	Reassure the pupils, but only so far as is honest and reliable, for example, don't make any promises you may not be able to keep, like <i>"I'll stay with you"</i> or <i>"Everything will be all right"</i> . Don't promise confidentiality: you have a duty to refer. Do reassure and alleviate fault, if the pupil refers to it. For example you could say: <i>"You're not to blame"</i> <i>"You're not the only one this sort of thing happens to"</i>
React	React to the pupil only as far as it is necessary for you to establish whether or not you need to refer this matter, but don't 'interrogate' for full details. Do not ask leading questions, for example:

“What did he do next” (This assumes he did)

“Did he touch your private parts?”

Such questions may invalidate your evidence (and the child's) in any later prosecution in court.

Do ask open questions like: “Anything else to tell me?”

“And?”

“Yes?”

Do not criticise the perpetrator, the pupils may love him/her, and reconciliation may be possible

Do not ask the pupil to repeat it all for another member of staff

Explain what you have to do next and who you have to talk to

Make some very brief notes at the time on any paper which comes to hand and write them up as soon as possible

Do not destroy your original notes in case they are required by a court

Record date, time, place, any noticeable non-verbal behaviour, and the words used by the child. If the child uses sexual ‘pet’ words, record the actual words used rather than translating them

Draw a diagram to indicate the position of any bruising

Record statements and observable things, rather than you interpretations

Remember

Relax

To follow the school guidelines

Try to get some support for yourself if you need it

For further information please do not hesitate to ask Miss Budge our Child Protection Co-ordinator.

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org>

Reviewed Nov 2017

Please note that at Uryside Primary we strictly adhere to Aberdeenshire Council Child Protection procedures and guidance as detailed in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Aberdeenshire Council Child Protection in Education Procedures and Guidance