



# Equal Protection from Assault Policy

## **Background**

Equal protection from assault is the law in Scotland. On 3 October 2019 the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament, meaning children in Scotland now have the same protections against assault as adults.

## **What is Changing**

If a parent or carer physically punishes or disciplines their child, they can be prosecuted with assault. Under the current law, depending on what happened, the defence of 'reasonable chastisement' may be available to them.

From November 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 will change the law and remove the 'reasonable chastisement' defence.

## **What this means in Practice**

This means that all forms of physical punishment of children will be against the law in Scotland, and children will have with the same legal protection from assault as adults.

The Act does not introduce a new offence. It just removes a defence to the existing offence of assault.

We are required by the Act to take steps to promote public awareness and understanding about the defence (of reasonable chastisement) being removed.

## **Support for Parents & Carers**

- [ParentClub](#) website contains hints and tips e.g on [coping with being a parent and behaviour](#).
- [Family Support Directory](#) organisations and support sources
- If talking to someone might help, [Children 1st Parentline](#) on 08000 28 22 33.
- Or [chat to someone online at Parentline](#).

These are free services

## **Actions by the School**

From 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Uryside School is required by law to share all information regarding a reported assault. This information is likely to be shared with one, or more, of the following agencies:

- Police Scotland
- Aberdeenshire Social work
- Crimestoppers
- If it is felt a child is in immediate danger, school will call 999.