**Armoy Primary School**





**Child Protection Information**

**For Parents and Guardians**

As a Parent/Guardian who comes into contact with children it is important that you are aware of the following information in relation to Child Protection.

Each school has two Designated Teachers who you must report to in regard to Child Protection. The Principal must not be contacted as he/she will make the final decision/act.

Within Armoy Primary School these teachers are:

**Designated Teacher: Mrs Redpath**

**Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs Leeke and Mrs Barr**

**Our safeguarding team is led by Mrs C Steele**

As a school we have a duty of care to pupils in our school.

To ensure that all parents/guardians are aware of the risks that some children may be exposed to, this leaflet will set out what is meant by harm and abuse and what steps you should take if you suspect a child is at risk.

Please take time to read this information carefully.

**What is harm?**

There are 3 levels of harm

1. Potential – where circumstances make abuse likely to happen.
2. Suspected – where the appearance, disclosure, behaviour or injury to a child or young person alerts someone to suspect that abuse has occurred or is occurring.
3. Confirmed – where the facts have been proven in court, in criminal or care proceedings or where there has been an admission of guilt.

**What is abuse?**

**Neglect**

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 foods, shelter or 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. It may also include failure to thrive

**Physical Injury**

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.

**Sexual Abuse**

Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact or they may include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Emotional Abuse**

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 children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of the other person. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children

**Exploitation**

Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person, to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain.

**As a parent/Guardian, please:**

* Be alert – abuse of children can happen in all environments – home, school, church, youth club, amongst peers whilst playing outside, online
* Give your children independence but know where they are, what they are doing and who they are with at all times.
* Ensure all childrens’ concerns are taken seriously.
* Report to the DT/DDT immediately any concerns about any child.
* If you are concerned about another child, please do not carry out your own investigations. Report to the school or other relevant authorities.
* Do not ask other children any leading question, just report.