

Edendork P.S. is committed to the provision of a high quality of education for all pupils and high standards to all whom it serves. At Edendork, every effort is made to:

- promote the children's self-esteem.
- ensure that every child feels that he/ she is appreciated for their contribution to the life of the school.
- build good relationships with parents / guardians and to work closely with all outside agencies.
- ensure that all pupils experience success.
- provide a safe, secure & happy environment for all pupils.

Children are always encouraged to do their best. Staff regularly nominate pupils for recognition of effort within a diverse range of areas.

We recognise and value the important role parents' play in their child's education. Every effort is made to ensure parents feel welcome, that they are made aware of the school's aims, objectives and policies and that they too recognise their child's individual needs, progress and achievements. We expect our parents to co-operate fully with us in achieving these goals.

A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our children learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son/daughters care/education, please contact the school and arrange a meeting with the Principal and/or the Class Teacher.

The Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually and issued to parents at least once every 2 years. Should you have any questions to ask or comments in relation to the content of this leaflet or the full policy please do not hesitate to contact the Principal or the Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

The following are a list of some of the other related pastoral care and safeguarding policies which are available on request from the school (or can be accessed on the school web site).

Positive Behaviour	Anti-Bullying
Special Educational Needs	Health and Safety
ICT and E-Safety	Intimate Care
Parental Complaints	

Procedure for parents who have a potential child protection concern:

I have a concern about my/a child's safety



I can talk to the class teacher



If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mr Barkey or the Deputy Designated Teachers Mrs Toye, Mrs Dunne, Mrs Lowe or the Principal, Mrs Mc Alinden/ Mrs. Forker



If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr B. Duffy



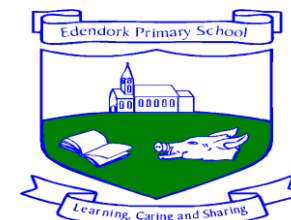
At any time I can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI Central Referral Unit at 028 9025 9299

**** If you have escalated your concern as set out in the above flow chart, and are of the view that it has not been addressed satisfactorily, you may revert to the school's complaints policy. This policy should culminate in the option for you to contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) who has the legislative power to investigate your complaint.**

This leaflet provides a summary of our Child Protection and Pastoral Care policies. More detailed policies are available on request from the school office or it can be accessed on the schools web site www.edendorkps.com

Edendork

Primary School



Pastoral Care and Child Protection Policy Summary

Aims

In Edendork P.S. we have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of all our pupils. In our school we respect each and every individual child and aim to provide a warm and caring environment so that each individual feels safe, secure and valued.

The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages ALL children to do their best. We strive to ensure that each individual achieves his/her potential academically, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Our Pastoral Care is permeated throughout all aspects of school life and is based upon the strong Catholic Ethos which prevails. Mutual respect, tolerance and forgiveness are the values that we promote.

Principles

The following principles form the basis of our child protection activity and underpin the guidance which we follow:

- The child's welfare must always be paramount.
- Children must always have a right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously.
- Protection.
- Partnership.
- Parents/Carers are supported to exercise parental responsibility and families helped stay together.
- Prevention.
- Evidence Based Decision Making.
- Responses should be proportionate to the circumstances.
- Every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well being.

Procedures

At Edendork P.S. we follow the following procedures on Child Protection to protect our pupils.

- All staff teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers will have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo a vetting procedure in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.
- All teaching and ancillary staff will attend a Child Protection training programme organised by the Designated Teacher.
- Children will be supervised at all times while in the school grounds.
 - When it is necessary for a child to have a different means of travel from their normal one, the school must be contacted by a parent/carer.
 - Access to the school building is granted by the secretary, caretaker or other member of staff after ringing the buzzer at the main entrance.
 - All visitors to the school must report to the secretary's office.
 - Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will be responded to sensitively in our school. All staff will be vigilant at all times and will aim to prevent bullying by raising an awareness with pupils, staff and parents about bullying, its forms and consequences.

All staff at Edendork P.S will ensure that all children are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns. The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr Cillian Barkey. The Deputy Designated Teachers Mrs Dunne, Mrs Lowe and Mrs Toye will assume responsibility in his absence. The Designated Governor for Child Protection is Mrs Yvonne McAvoy.

The Department of Education (DENI) requires all those working in education to co-operate fully with Social Services and other agencies to protect children. It is therefore our duty to refer if there is a concern about any form of abuse. The following diagram shows the procedures we are required to follow:'

