

Castlehead High School

Child Protection Policy – Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People



Updated August 2026

Review August 2027

Policy Statement

Castlehead High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, safety, and wellbeing of all children and young people. We have a duty of care to protect them from harm and to ensure their rights are upheld in line with the **National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021, updated 2023)**, **Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)**, and **The Promise**.

Aims

- Ensure all staff follow child protection procedures
 - Remain alert to the needs of children and young people
 - Understand staff roles in keeping pupils safe and included
 - Provide children with education and awareness to protect themselves
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Prevention Through Education

We prevent abuse and neglect by:

- Raising awareness of risks
 - Developing safety skills
 - Helping pupils recognise unsafe behaviours
 - Teaching appropriate responses
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Recognising Abuse and Neglect

Abuse and neglect involve maltreatment of a child through action or inaction.

- **Physical abuse:** hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating.
- **Emotional abuse:** humiliation, intimidation, unrealistic demands, witnessing domestic abuse.
- **Sexual abuse:** involving children in sexual activities.
- **Neglect:** failure to meet basic needs.

Staff should be alert to significant changes in attendance, behaviour, or disclosures.

Additional Areas of Concern

- Exposure to domestic abuse
 - Sexually harmful/problematic behaviours
 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
 - Honour-based violence/forced marriage
 - Child trafficking
 - Parental substance misuse or mental health issues
 - Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
 - Child criminal exploitation (CCE)
 - Online exploitation and radicalisation
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Responding to Concerns

1. Report immediately to Head Teacher or DHT Pupil Support.
2. Complete **Appendix 3 – Record of Concern Alert** on the same day.
3. Follow guidance from the designated lead.

Responding to Disclosures

- Listen attentively
 - Do not promise confidentiality
 - Stay calm and reassuring
 - Avoid personal opinions
 - Do not investigate or ask leading questions
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Roles and Responsibilities

- **Head Teacher / Child Protection Co-ordinator:** oversee procedures.
 - **All Staff:** report concerns, complete records.
 - **Children's Services:** partner in investigations and support.
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Contact List

If you have a concern, please contact:

- **Head Teacher:** Gordon Menzies – 0300 300 1300
gordon.menzies@renfrewshire.school
- **Child Protection Co-ordinator (DHT Pupil Support):** Claire Wilson – 0300 300 1300
claire.wilson@renfrewshire.school

OR

Caitie Donnachie

caitie.donnachie@renfrewshire.school
