



Determination Confidence
Teamwork Community
Encouragement Trust

Crieff High School



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy



Education and Learning
Improving Lives Together
Ambition | Compassion | Integrity

Introduction

National Context

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023

This Guidance, which informs the development of local multi-agency child protection procedures, processes and training, supports the care and protection of children across Scotland. It underlines the responsibilities and expectations of adult services to consider the needs of children and their parents where vulnerability and protection needs are identified.

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) – 2022 is the Scottish Government's commitment to provide all children, young people and their families with the right support at the right time. This is so that every child and young person in Scotland can reach their full potential.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a complete statement of children's rights. The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Local Context

Perth and Kinross Council is strongly committed to providing a safe environment for all people in its educational establishments. The processes and procedures contained within *Perth & Kinross Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines* are used to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all young people.

School Context

Through the school values of *Trust* and *Community*, Crieff High School is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all young people.

This Child Protection Policy outlines the procedures and responsibilities in Crieff High School and aims to:

- Provide all Strathearn Community Campus and Crieff High School staff with clear guidance on their responsibilities in identifying and reporting potential child protection issues.
- Protect young people from abuse or neglect and prevent the risk of them coming to significant harm.
- Ensure consistent and effective action is taken in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Supporting Wellbeing

The GIRFEC approach provides a consistent framework and shared language for promoting, supporting, and safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people. Through a common understanding of wellbeing, Crieff High School recognises that children and young people need to grow up safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

As a Gold Rights Respecting School, The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is embedded in the approaches within our school. We have a responsibility to support young people to feel valued and respected, develop self-esteem, a sense of belonging, and safe.



- ✓ *Article 3* *The right for my best interests to the top priority*
- ✓ *Article 11* *Abduction and non-return of children*
- ✓ *Article 12* *Respect for the views of the child*
- ✓ *Article 19* *Protection from Violence, Abuse and Neglect*
- ✓ *Article 34* *Sexual Exploitation*
- ✓ *Article 35* *Abduction, sale and trafficking*
- ✓ *Article 36* *Others forms of exploitation*
- ✓ *Article 39* *Recovery from trauma and reintegration*

Child Abuse and Neglect

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or young person. This can occur within the home; within a family or peer network; in care placements; institutions or community settings; and in the online and digital world.

Child abuse can be categorised as follows (although this list is not exhaustive):

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Child Trafficking
- Neglect
- Online Abuse/Grooming
- Radicalisation

Roles and Responsibilities

Crieff High School recognises that every adult has a role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and all staff are in a strong position to contribute to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people during both school hours and out of school activities.

Crieff High School Child Protection Officers

Overall responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding sits with the Depute Headteacher (Support) – Mrs Morag Fotheringhame

Mrs Lana Prince, Depute Headteacher (School Improvement) is also a trained CPO and will deputise if required.

Barvick House – Mrs Alison Walker

Kelty House – Mr Sam Davidson

Turret House – Ms Ruth Paterson

Intensive Support Provision – Mr Dan Williamson

Child Protection Officers are contactable through the main school office on **01764 657600**.

Issues relating to Child Protection take priority over other matters so if your enquiry is relating to a child protection concern, please inform the office staff when you call.

Role of the Child Protection Officers

- Ensure all staff are familiar with the agreed Child Protection policy/procedures and adhere to them.
- Provide annual updates to all staff on Child Protection policy and procedures.
- Ensure Child Protection is part of the induction of new staff.
- To receive and act upon any reported concerns about a young person's safety and/or welfare.
- To liaise with the Child Protection Duty Team/allocated Social Worker and, where appropriate, colleagues from partner agencies to support the wellbeing and safety of a young person.
- Ensure appropriate recording of Child Protection concerns/responses in secure Child Concern folders.
- Attend Initial Referral Discussions or Child Protection Case Conferences as required.
- Keep abreast of National Guidance and Legislation and any changes.
- To keep up to date with current practice by participating in training opportunities where possible.
- To pass on the Child Concern Folder if a young person moves to another school and liaise with the key adult in that establishment.

All School & Campus Staff

All staff who work with and/or come into contact with children/young people and their families have a role to play in Child Protection. Staff should be alert to signs and symptoms which may indicate that a young person is being exposed to harm or abuse.

Abuse of neglect does not have to have occurred; it is sufficient that there is an indication that there is a concern.

It is the responsibility of all staff if they see a visitor to Crieff High School who does not have a visitor lanyard displayed to ask them to return to the campus reception to sign in. The campus reception should be informed that the visitor will return.

Teachers

To ensure the safety of all young people in Crieff High School, all class teachers must follow the [Crieff High School Attendance Policy](#) and register pupils within the first 5 minutes of each period.

If a pupil is a TBC Priority and has not registered for class, the attendance procedure should be followed, and the absence reported by emailing CHSAttendance@pkc.gov.uk.

If a young person needs to leave class early as part of an agreed plan, they should leave no more than 3 minutes early.

Young People

If any young person has a Child protection concern they wish to report, either for themselves or for another young person, they should contact their Principal Teacher of Guidance or any of the Child Protection Officers listed above.

Reporting Concerns

If there is a Child Protection concern, this must be verbally reported to a Child Protection Officer immediately. Child Protection Officers are contactable through the main school office on **01764 657600** or through normal school contact processes.

Issues relating to Child Protection take priority over other matters so if your enquiry is relating to a child protection concern, please inform the Child Protection Officer when you make contact.

School staff should follow up their verbal report with a written report on a [Child Concern Form](#).

If Crieff High School Child Protection Officers cannot be contacted, then Child Protection concerns should be reported to one of the following:

- Perth and Kinross Child Protection and Duty Team: 01738 476768 (24 hrs)
childprotection@pkc.gov.uk
- Police (non- emergency):101
- Police (In an emergency): 999

There are posters displayed around Crieff High School and Strathearn Community Campus explaining the procedures for reporting Child Protection concerns. Child Protection information is also displayed on the visitor lanyard.

Outside of normal school hours, Strathearn Community Campus staff should follow their normal Child Protection reporting process.

Visitors to Crieff High School

All visitors to Crieff High School must report to the main Campus reception, sign in and be issued with a visitor lanyard.

Record Keeping

All Child Protection concerns are recorded in individual Child Concern Folders as described in the [PKC Child Concern Paperwork Guidance 2023](#).

Child Concern Folders are reviewed by the DHT who has responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding twice a year in December and June.

Policy Review

The Crieff High School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was produced in October 2024. The policy will be reviewed after 1 year.

Further information

This policy is informed by the following local and national policies and procedures:

- [Perth & Kinross Council Child Protection](#)
- [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023](#)
- [Perth & Kinross Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Child protection Guidelines](#).