



### Quick Reference Guide for Staff

Wellington School believes that all children have the right to be protected. It is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people in its care and promoting and developing all aspects of their wellbeing. The wellbeing of all children and young people is at the heart of Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and is enshrined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Child Protection has to be seen in the wider context of GIRFEC. All children and young people have the right to be cared for and protected from harm and abuse and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights are respected and their needs met.

This leaflet has been designed as a quick reference guide for staff. Further details can be found in the National guidance for child protection in Scotland 2021 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021/> or you can seek advice from the Child Protection Co-ordinator or her Deputies.

### What is wellbeing?

A child's wellbeing is influenced by everything around them and the different expectations and needs they have at different times in their lives. To help make sure everyone has a common understanding of wellbeing means, it is described in terms of eight indicators or SHANARRI.

**Safe:** Protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community.

**Healthy:** Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare and support in learning to make healthy, safe choices.

**Achieving:** Being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community setting, with additional help if needed, or, where possible, in a suitable care setting.

**Nurtured:** Having a nurturing place to live in a family setting, with additional help if needed, or, where possible, in a suitable care setting

**Active:** Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community.

**Respected:** Having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them.

**Responsible:** Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles at home, in school and in the community, and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision, and being involved in decisions that affect them.

**Included:** Having help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities, and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn.

## **What is a wellbeing concern?**

A concern may be expressed about anything that affects or has the possibility of affecting the wellbeing, happiness or potential of the child. It may relate to a single event or observation, a series of events, or an attribute of the child or someone associated with them.

When a child, parent(s)/carer, or someone who works with them, raises a wellbeing concern, the most appropriate person will use the wellbeing indicators and carefully consider the situation by asking five questions.

1. What is getting in the way of this child's wellbeing?
2. Do I have all the information I need to help this child?
3. What can I do now to help this child?
4. What can my agency do to help this child?
5. What additional help, if any, may be needed from others?

Discussion can then take place and advice and support can be offered to improve the child's wellbeing.

A further very important question is 'what are the views of the child?' The child's views must be taken into account in all decisions concerning them and recorded.

Early intervention can help to avoid bigger concerns or problems developing.

## **What is a child protection concern?**

Child protection is closely linked to the risk of significant harm. 'Significant harm' is a complex matter and subject to professional judgment based on a multi-agency assessment of the child and their family. Where there are concerns about harm, abuse or neglect, these must be shared with the relevant agencies so that they can decide together whether the harm is, or is likely to be, significant. Significant harm can result from a specific incident, a series of incidents or an accumulation of concerns over a period of time. 'Harm' means the ill treatment or impairment of the health or development of the child, which may include impairment suffered as a result of seeing or hearing ill treatment of another. It is essential that when considering the likelihood of significant harm, that the impact (or potential impact) on the child take priority.

If in any doubt as to whether a concern is related to wellbeing or child protection, advice should always be sought from the Child Protection Co-ordinator or her Deputies.

## **Information Sharing and Consent**

### **Wellbeing**

Detailed procedures for sharing information in relation to a child or young person's wellbeing within the School and between partners will be dictated by data protection legislation and guidance and local information sharing protocols. More information is available from the Information Commissioners Office <https://ico.org.uk/>. The child's right to privacy is central to any decisions that are made about them. Where the child is able to give consent, they should be asked to do so before any information is shared about them. Children are presumed, from the age of 12, to understand what it means to give consent to the processing or sharing of their personal information.

We need to make sure that consent is given on an informed basis by explaining:

- The purpose for which information is to be shared
- What information is to be shared
- With whom it is to be shared

The sharing of information without consent should take place only where clearly justified in the circumstances of an individual case, and not as a matter of course.

## **Child Protection**

Procedures for sharing information in relation to child protection matters will be dictated by National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021. Practitioners may continue to share proportionate and relevant information to appropriate authorities in exactly the same circumstances as they now do, where necessary to protect the vital interests of the child and the reliance on consent may be prejudicial to that purpose. In all circumstances, the welfare and protection of a child is paramount.

Designated Child Protection Co-ordinator  
Mrs N. O'Connell

Designated Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinators  
Mr A. McDougall (Senior School)  
Mr J. Cox ( Junior School)

In the event of any child protection concerns, they can be contacted by telephone on 01292 269321 or via the following email address: [safeguarding@wellingtonschool.org](mailto:safeguarding@wellingtonschool.org)

NO'Connell November 2021