**Safeguarding Children Policy Statement**

We in New Lodge Nursery School have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the children in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our Pastoral Care Policy. One way in which we seek to protect pupils is by helping them learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

All our staff are subject to appropriate background checks

* The welfare of each child is our paramount consideration.
* The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in the school, and we know that some forms of child abuse are criminal offences.

Types of child abuse include – physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.

**Procedures for suspected child abuse: -**

* The designated teacher for Child protection is Mrs Crown and Mrs McCann is the deputy designated teacher.
* If a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, or the child show signs of abuse, the designated teacher/principal must be informed immediately.
* If a child may be at risk, the school is obligated to make a referral to Social Services/Gateway.
* The school does not investigate the allegation.
* Unless there are concerns that a parent may be the possible abuser, the parents will be informed immediately.
* If the allegation is made against a member of staff, the member of staff will be suspended pending a full investigation.

**Bullying**

Bullying is a distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school. Any complaint by a parent that their child is, or may be being bullied will be fully investigated by Mrs Crown It is important that parents inform the Principal of any incidents. The sanctions against a pupil who bullies will depend on the seriousness of the case. His/her behaviour will be carefully monitored until staff are satisfied that the problem has stopped.

**A full copy of the Safeguarding Children Policy is available from the main office**