

SAFE AND WELL

A school's first priority is to keep young people safe and well. At Stranraer Academy, there is a whole school understanding that **all** staff have a role in helping our young people to stay safe and well.

The Academy's whole school team of staff is extensive and includes such people as:

Teachers : Janitors : School Meals Staff : Administrative Staff : Support Manager : Support Assistants : Technical Assistants : School Librarian : Staff from Partner Agencies : Visiting Specialists

All school staff have been trained by the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator, Rhona McCulloch, to recognise the signs in young people that show that they may need support, are at risk and/or they are experiencing distress. Staff are also fully aware of the Child Protection Procedures that all schools must follow if a young person discloses abuse or a staff member suspects abuse / neglect or has a concern. Refresher training sessions are offered to staff at regular intervals.

In addition to having staff who are committed to providing a positive and caring ethos for young people, the school curriculum includes Personal and Social Development classes from S1 to S6, appropriate to age and understanding, which focus on developing skills in young people that help them (1) to make safe and informed choices and (2) to seek information and support from a range of sources when it is required. These P.S.D. classes combine with daily Registration and weekly Year Assemblies to advise young people on a range of topics including –

- Inappropriate use of computers
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones
- Ill-judged relationships
- Misuse of alcohol and / or drugs
- Domestic abuse
- Eating disorders
- Self harming
- Inappropriate social behaviour e.g. bullying, vandalism
- Use of offensive language and/or behaviour.

Wherever possible, the school uses its partner agencies to enhance its programme of education for P.S.D.

Finally the school has a range of procedures that seek to ensure the safety and well being of all its pupils across a wide spectrum of learning experiences and environments. For example, there are procedures for

- The use of cameras and recording equipment within school
- The use of mobile phones in school

- Work experience placements
- School trips and residential stays
- Computer safety
- Managing ICT infrastructure for child safety
- The transfer of information when children move school
- Access to information held by the school
- Changing room facilities

Stranraer Academy is confident that it is prepared to respond in a safe and caring way to the range of situations that may be encountered when working closely with young people and their families/carers.

Achieving the best outcomes for our young people is always the school's foremost intention.