

Knockevin School



"Putting Children First"

Child Protection **Policy—Summary**



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This is a summary of our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. The policy provides advice to parents, staff, volunteers and governors on their responsibilities in relation to Child Protection, including the action which should be taken to enable cases of suspected abuse to be properly considered and pursued.

It is the duty of everyone working in our school to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in our care. It is our duty to protect our children from abuse. It is our responsibility to provide high quality and safe educational services to children, their parents, carers, and families. It is our duty to ensure staff and all other visitors to our school are safeguarded (kept safe).

The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child, and the welfare of each child is our paramount consideration. Child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school.

If you as a parent have a concern about the safety of your/a child in Knockevin school:

- 1. Speak to the class teacher**
- 2. If you are not satisfied, speak to the Principal, Sara Liddell, Rhonda Cameron (Early Years Leader) or Ronan Loughran (Junior Department Leader) they are the Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection in our school**
- 3. If you are still not satisfied, speak to or write to Maura Campbell, Designated Governor**

Note: You can speak to your social worker or GP at any time if you have concerns. Out of hours services can be contacted when the school is closed

At Knockevin School we will:

- always take seriously any child abuse allegations or concerns expressed by children, or made on their behalf, and we will investigate all such cases according to our policy
- seek to act as quickly as we can in all investigations.
- always make sure a Senior member of staff takes the lead in every allegation or referral (usually the Designated and/ or Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection).

Staff have a duty to report any child protection concerns to their Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DT) without delay. At Knockevin School we understand that any child protection allegation and investigation has a huge impact upon children, parents, carers, staff and their families, and on the school. Some children may need **PROTECTING** to stop them becoming victims of **CHILD ABUSE** which is defined as: **neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation or emotional abuse.**

Staff in school will often, because of their day to day contact and knowledge of the children, be able to identify such abuse and offer support to children in need. They are trained to do so.

Parents and carers

Parents and carers must understand that in certain circumstances there may be a need to contact other agencies without first notifying them. This decision will be made in partnership between the EA and Social Services. **This is a legal obligation and not a personal decision.**

A referral to social services and the PSNI CRU will always be made in the case of domestic violence

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Our Safeguarding Team

Sara Liddell—Principal, Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Rhonda Cameron / Ronan Loughran—Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection

Maura Campbell—Designated Governor for Child Protection, Board of Governors

Rosemary Gorman—Chair, Board of Governors

Ronan Loughran, Eimear Toner—ICT coordinators

Jennifer Henry—PDMU/RSE coordinator

**The Safety Of The Child Is Our
Priority At All Times.**

Our full child protection policy can be viewed at any time. Please contact the school for a copy or you can access it on our website