

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
DUNAMORE**

**PASTORAL CARE/
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**



This policy is reviewed annually

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DUNAMORE

In writing our policy on Child Protection we have drawn upon DENI Guidelines Pastoral Care in Schools Child Protection (1999/10), the requirements of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 and all other subsequent statutory and legislative requirements to date.

We, in St Mary's Primary School Dunamore, have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our Child Protection/ Pastoral Care Policy, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment for all pupils.

We value the individual child for their unique talents and abilities and promote an environment in which our pupils can learn and develop to their full potential.

The ways in which we seek to help our pupils protect themselves are by helping them to:

- learn about risks,
- have respect for themselves and others,
- recognise unwelcome behaviour in others.
- Acquire the confidence and the skills they need to keep themselves safe. This could mean telling someone, whom they trust, about any unwelcome behaviour or experiences which they may have encountered.

We will endeavour to ensure that all our staff and volunteers have been subjected to appropriate background checks (Access NI) in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.

The Staff of St Mary's P.S Dunamore has also adopted a staff Code of Conduct for Child Protection as set out in the DENI Guidelines Pastoral Care in Schools Child Protection (1999/10)/ DHSSPS MARCH 2016 and "Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools - A Guide for Schools April 2017

The purpose of the following procedures on Child Protection is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school (teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers) have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

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. Suspicions of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school, and we know that some forms of child abuse are also a criminal offence.

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Definitions taken from Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland DHSSPS MARCH 2016 and Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools: April 2017

TYPES OF ABUSE

Harm can be suffered by a child or young person by acts of abuse perpetrated upon them by others. Abuse can happen in any family, but children may be more at risk if their parents have problems with drugs, alcohol and mental health, or if they live in a home where domestic abuse happens. Abuse can also occur outside of the family environment. Evidence shows that babies and children with disabilities can be more vulnerable to suffering abuse.

Although the harm from the abuse might take a long time to be recognisable in the child or young person, professionals may be in a position to observe its indicators earlier, for example, in the way that a parent interacts with their child. Effective and ongoing information sharing is key between professionals.

Harm from abuse is not always straightforward to identify and a child or young person may experience more than one type of harm or significant harm.

Harm can be caused by:

- Physical abuse;
- Sexual abuse;
- Emotional abuse;
- Neglect; and
- Exploitation.

Physical Abuse is deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

Sexual Abuse occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving a child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying – including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones – by a child's peers.

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. Children who are neglected often also suffer from other types of abuse.

Exploitation¹ is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking. It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can be sexual in nature.

¹Although 'exploitation' is not included in the categories of registration for the Child Protection Register, professionals should recognise that the abuse resulting from or caused by the exploitation of children and young people can be categorised within the existing CPR categories as children who have been exploited will have suffered from physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or a combination of these forms of abuse.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

The Designated Teacher (DT) for Child Protection is: Mrs Ursula O' Hanlon and the Deputy Designated Teacher (DDT) is: Mr Keith Herbert. The Child Protection Safeguarding team includes the DT, DDT, Principal (Miss Devlin) and a member/s of the BOG (Board of Governors) who is the Designated Governor for Child Protection.

Where a member of staff has a concern about a child the following procedures will be followed:

- (a) The concern will be reported to the Designated Teacher (who will inform the Principal) and record notes.
- (b) In the absence of the Designated Teacher the concern will be reported to the Deputy Designated Teacher (who will inform the Principal) and record notes.
- (c) Following the reporting of the concern, the person/s who has parental responsibility of the child may be contacted for further clarification, and/or advice may be sought from either: CPSSS, Social Services, Educational Welfare Officer, Home First Trust or CCMS Designated Officer.
- (d) Advice noted and appropriate action taken.
- (e) If a referral has to be made the Principal/Designated Teacher will do so.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING DISCLOSED CHILD ABUSE

If a child makes a disclosure to a teacher or other member of staff which gives rise to concerns about possible abuse the member of staff must act promptly.

He/she should not investigate the disclosure (this is a matter for the Social Services) but should report the concerns immediately to the Designated Teacher or the Deputy Designated Teacher in the absence of the Designated Teacher and notes are made ASAP.

The Designated Teacher (and in her absence the DDT) will report the matter to the Principal as a matter of urgency to plan a course of action. A written record is made.

The Principal, in consultation with the Designated Teacher, will decide whether, in the best interests of the child, the matter needs to be referred to Social Services.

IF THERE ARE CONCERNS THAT THE CHILD MAY BE AT RISK, THE SCHOOL IS OBLIGED TO MAKE A REFERRAL. Unless there are concerns that a parent/guardian may be the possible abuser, the parent/guardian will be informed immediately.

The Principal/DT will seek clarification or advice and consult with the: CPSSS or Senior Social Worker or CCMS Designated Officer or Education Welfare Officer before a referral is made.

No decision to refer a case to Social Services will be made without the fullest consideration and appropriate advice. THE SAFETY OF THE CHILD IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY.

Where there are concerns about possible abuse, the Principal/ Designated Teacher will inform Social Services, CPSSS and CCMS Designated Officer and complete a referral form.

The form will be enclosed in an envelope marked Confidential-Child Protection and sent to Social Services and a copy will be sent to Child Protection Support Services for Schools.

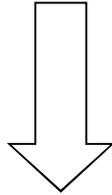
The Board of Governors will be kept informed of the number of children who are on the Child Protection Register in our school

e-Safety

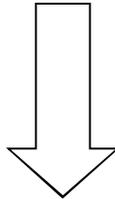
The school Internet access is filtered through the C2k managed service using a Websense filtering solution. The school has a second line for internet access to facilitate the use of iPads. This is managed by i-Teach. All filters and appropriate security is overseen by the i-Teach team who rigorously scan and examine the line for any inappropriate content. The school has been given a Helpline number for any eventuality. The school has purchased an Applemac mini server for extra security in order for us to keep ourselves and the children in our care protected as best we can.

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DUNAMORE- PASTORAL
CARE: CHILD PROTECTION
HOW A PUPIL CAN EXPRESS A CONCERN IN SCHOOL**

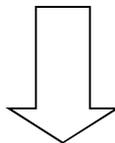
I am worried about something that is happening to me or to someone
that I know



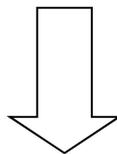
I can talk to my class teacher or any adult that works in our school



I can talk to any teacher



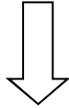
I can talk to Mrs O' Hanlon, Mr Herbert or Miss Devlin



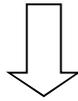
I can call Childline 08001111/ Text Free 0900400222 or NSPCC

Pastoral Care in Schools Child Protection- Staff Procedures

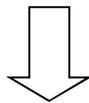
I have a concern about a child's safety/welfare or a disclosure
has been made to me



- Listen and reassure the child but do **not** investigate
- Make no promises of secrecy
- Respond-only to ensure that the child is safe and secure
- Record objectively the concern/disclosure as soon as possible including date and time



Report concern/disclosure to the Designated Teacher: Mrs U O' Hanlon
In her absence report concern/disclosure to the Deputy Designated Teacher:
Mr K Herbert
The information will be passed on to the Principal by the DT/DDT



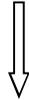
Where necessary you will be informed of outcomes

Pastoral Care in Schools

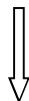
Child Protection

How a Parent Can Express a Concern

I have a concern about my/a child's safety



I can talk to the class teacher



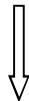
If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mrs U O' Hanlon/the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mr K Herbert or the Principal



If I am still concerned, I can talk/*write* to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors



If I am still concerned, I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman
Telephone: 0800 343 424



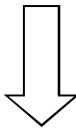
At any time, I can talk to the local Children's Gateway Team (028 37415285)
Or Out of Hours phone number (028 95049999)
or the PSNI Central Referral Unit Telephone: 02890259299

Procedures for Parents: Arranging an Appointment to Meet a Teacher

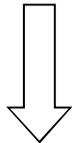
If you would like an appointment with a teacher use the following procedure



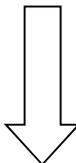
Make contact with the school



Ask to speak to the Principal
Suitable times are:
8.30am – 9.00am 3.30pm – 4.30pm



Explain your concern to the Principal



Principal in consultation with the Class Teacher will arrange a suitable time for a meeting for all concerned

If the matter in question is too urgent for above procedures the Principal will meet with the parent as soon as possible.