

DRUMAHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

(Parent Version)

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INTRODUCTION

Child Protection Ethos ... *“Our school is about developing the potential of everyone to the full, within a caring and stimulating environment.”*

We in Drumahoe Primary School have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential. All staff, teaching and non-teaching should be alert to the signs of possible abuse and should know the procedures to be followed. This Policy sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school

The staff at Drumahoe Primary School has adopted a Code of Conduct and visitors are required to read and adhere to The Visitors Code of Conduct, sign the visitors' book and wear a visitors' badge.

Child Protection Principles

The general principles, which underpin our work, are those set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are enshrined in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003 the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) guidance “Pastoral Care in Schools-Child Protection”(DENI Circular 99/10), the Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures (2005), Co- operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2016), Safeguarding Board Act Northern Ireland (2011).

The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy.

- It is a child's right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- We have a pastoral responsibility towards the children in our care and should take all reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.
- In any incident the child's welfare must be paramount, this overrides all other considerations.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the child's interest must always come first.

Aims to be addressed through this policy document:

- To introduce procedures in the school to deal with suspected cases of child abuse as directed by Department and EA circulars.
- To make the staff aware of the referral procedure within the school.
- To make parents aware of the procedures set up in school to deal with suspected cases of child abuse.

The school has a duty to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activities and functions. The child protection therefore complements and supports a range of other school policies including:

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Positive Behaviour & Discipline Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Use of Reasonable Force/Safe Handling
- Special Educational Needs
- Educational Visits
- Administration of Medicines
- Health and Safety Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Intimate Care
- Use of Mobile Phones/Cameras
- E-Safety Policy
- Attendance Policy

These policies are available to parents and any parent wishing to have a copy should contact the School office or visit the school App or website at: www.drumahoeps.org

Roles and Responsibilities:

Safeguarding Team

The following are members of the school's Safeguarding Team:

- Chair of the Board of Governors (Mrs G Crowe);
- Designated Governor for Child Protection (Mrs P McClements);
- Principal (Mr T R McMaster);
- Designated Teacher (Mrs L Hegarty);
- Deputy Designated Teacher(s) (Mr T R McMaster).

The main role of the team is to:

- Monitor and periodically audit the safeguarding and child protection arrangements in the school
- Identify any actions required to address audit findings or ETI inspection of its safeguarding/child protection arrangements
- Provide support for the Designated and Deputy Designated teachers in the exercise of their child protection responsibilities.

The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors as a body must ensure that the school fulfils its safeguarding responsibilities in keeping with current legislation and DE guidance including:

- ensuring that safeguarding/child protection is a standard item on the agenda of Board of Governor meetings;
- approving the school's child protection policy at least once every 2 years;
- ensuring that there is a time-tabled review (every 2/3 years) of all other safeguarding policies and that they are presented to the BOG for approval;
- receiving annual child protection reports;
- ensuring there is a Staff Code of Conduct for all adults working in the school;
- attending relevant child protection/safeguarding training for Governors.

School Staff

Teachers, Classroom Assistants and other Support staff in school see children on a daily basis over long periods and can notice physical, behavioural and emotional indicators and a child may choose to disclose to them allegations of abuse.

Members of staff **must** refer concerns or disclosures to the Designated/Deputy Teacher (Principal) for Child Protection. In addition, class teachers should also keep the Designated Teacher informed in writing or verbally about poor attendance and punctuality, poor presentation, changed or unusual behaviour including self-harm and suicidal thoughts, deterioration in educational progress, discussions with parents about concerns relating to their child, concerns about pupil abuse or serious bullying and concerns about home circumstances including disclosures of domestic abuse.

A pro-forma for reporting a concern or disclosure is used for this purpose - Child Protection Record – 'Note of Concern'. If a member of staff does not feel their concerns are being taken seriously or action to safeguard the child is not being taken by professionals and the child is considered to be at risk of continuing harm then they should speak to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Principal, Education Authority Designated Officer for Child Protection or to Social Services.

Parents

Parents can play their part in safeguarding by:

- telephoning the school on the morning of their child's absence, or sending in a note (Absence Slip) on the child's return to school, so as the school is reassured as to the child's well-being;
- making requests to the school in advance for permission to allow their child to attend medical or other appointment (Exeat Slip) including providing details of any arrangements for the collection of the child;
- informing the school whenever anyone, other than themselves, intends to pick up the child after school;
- familiarising themselves with the schools safeguarding policies e.g. Anti-Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Use of Internet and Child Protection Policies;
- reporting to the school office when they visit the school;
- sharing any concerns that they may have in relation to their child with the school.

Definition of Harm

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 on-going information sharing is key between professionals.

(Co- operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016)

Harm can be caused by:

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

The procedures outlined in this document are intended to safeguard children who are at risk of significant harm because of abuse or neglect by a parent, carer or other with a duty of care towards a child. The main types of abuse as well as their physical and behavioural indicators are included in **Appendix 4**.

Dealing with Disclosures of Abuse

The following are guidelines for use by staff should a child disclose concerns of a child protection nature.

Receive - listen to what the child says, without displaying shock or disbelief. Accept what is said, making brief cursory notes. These notes should be retained.

Reassure -ensure the child is reassured that he/she will be safe and his/her interests will come first. **No promise of confidentiality can or should be made to a child or anyone else giving information about possible abuse.**

Respond - respond to the child only as far as is necessary for you to establish whether or not you need to refer the matter. Use open questions e.g. anything else to tell me? Do not interrogate or ask leading questions- this may invalidate your evidence and the child's in any later court proceedings. Do not criticise the perpetrator- the child may love this person and reconciliation may be possible. Explain what you have to do next and to whom you have to talk.

Record- make notes at the time and write these up as soon as possible afterwards. Note the time, date, place, people present as well as what *is seen and* said. Record key phrases/words used, noticeable non-verbal behaviour and any physical injuries. Under no circumstances should a child be photographed or a child's clothing removed. Do not destroy original notes.

Report- refer the matter to the Designated Teacher. Respect confidentiality i.e. the matter should only be discussed on a 'need to know basis'.

Procedures for Reporting Suspected or Disclosed Child Abuse

How a Parent can make a Complaint

We aim to work closely with parents/guardians in supporting all aspects of their child's development and well-being. Any concerns a parent may have will be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional manner. If a parent has a concern they can talk to the

Class Teacher the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher for child protection or the Principal. If they are still concerned they may talk to the Chair of the Board of Governors. At any time, a parent may talk to a social worker in the local Gateway team or to the PSNI Public Protection Unit. Details of who to contact are shown in the flowchart in **Appendix 1**.

Where the school has concerns or has been given information about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school staff including volunteers.

If a child makes a disclosure to a teacher or other member of staff which gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, the member of staff must act promptly. **He/she should not investigate**- this is a matter for Social Services- but should report these concerns immediately to the Designated Teacher, discuss the matter with her, and make full notes.

These notes or records should be factual, objective and include what was seen, said, heard or reported. They should include details of the place and time and who was present and should be given to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher. The person who reports the incident must treat the matter in confidence.

The Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher will decide whether in the best interest of the child the matter needs to be referred to Social Services. He/she will discuss the matter with the Principal and may also seek advice or clarification from the Education Authority Designated Officer for Child Protection or from Social Services (Gateway Team). Where it is evident that a young person has been or is at risk of being abused and/or a criminal offence may have been committed then the school must make a referral.

Referrals to Social Services will be made by telephone in the first instance and within 24 hours will be followed by the completion of a UNOCINI (Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland) referral form. If a referral is made a copy of the UNOCINI referral form should be sent to the Education Authority Designated Officer for Child Protection. A copy of the UNOCINI form will be placed in the school's child protection file.

This procedure with names and contact numbers is shown in **Appendix 2** - procedure where the school has concerns, or has been given information about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff.

Where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school's staff or a Volunteer

When a complaint about possible child abuse is made against a member of staff the Principal (or the Designated Teacher if the Principal is not available) must be informed immediately. If the complaint is against the Principal, then the Designated Teacher should be informed and he/she will inform the Chairperson of the Board of Governors who will consider what action is required in consultation with the employing authority.

The procedure as outlined in **Appendix 3** - procedure where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school's staff will be followed in keeping with current Department of Education guidance (DE Circular 2015/13).

NOTE: In all cases of suspected child abuse, the action to be taken by the school is that of informing Social Services and the Education Authority. The school will NOT be involved in investigating the suspected abuse.

Allegations:

Allegation against a member of staff

If a complaint about possible child abuse is made against a member of staff, Mr McMaster (Principal) and Mrs Hegarty (DT) must be informed immediately. Parents can also seek advice from the School's Designated Child Protection Governor, Mrs P McClements. The above procedures will apply (unless the complaint has been made about the Principal or DT/Vice Principal).

Allegation against the Principal

If the complaint is made against the Principal, Mrs Hegarty must be informed immediately. Mrs Hegarty will inform the Chairperson (Mrs G Crowe) and together they will ensure that the necessary action is taken.

Suspension from Duty

Where the matter has been referred to the Social Services and or PSNI, the member of staff will be removed from duties involving direct contact with pupils, and may be suspended from duty as a precautionary measure pending investigation by Social Services. The Chairman of the Board of Governors will be informed immediately.

Attendance at Child Protection Case Conferences & Social Services Meetings

The Designated Teacher/Deputy Designated Teacher or Principal may be invited to attend an initial and review Child Protection Case Conferences, core group or family support planning meetings convened by the Health & Social Care Trust. They will provide a written report which will be compiled following consultation with relevant staff. Feedback will be given to staff under the 'need to know' principle on a case-by-case basis. Children whose names are on the Child Protection register will be monitored and supported in accordance with their child protection plan.

Consent from Pupils and Parents

Prior to making a referral to Social Services the consent of the parent/carers and/or the young person (if they are competent to give this) will normally be sought. The exception to this is where to seek such consent would put that child, young person or others at increased risk of significant harm or an adult at risk of serious harm, or it would undermine the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime including where seeking consent might lead to interference with any potential investigation.

In circumstances where the consent of the parent/carer and/or the young person has been sought and is withheld we will consider and where possible respect their wishes. However, our primary consideration must be the safety and welfare of the child and we will make a referral in cases where consent is withheld if we believe on the basis of the information available that it is in the best interests of the child/young person to do so.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held "in confidence". In the interests of the child, staff have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals particularly the investigative agencies. In keeping with the principle of confidentiality, the sharing of

information with school staff will be on a 'need to know' basis. Should a child transfer to another school whilst there are current child protection concerns we will share these concerns with the Designated Teacher in the receiving school.

For reasons of confidentiality the only people who need to know details of suspected cases are:

- a) Mr T McMaster - Principal/ Deputy Designated Teacher;
- b) Mrs L Hegarty - Designated Teacher;
- c) Chairperson of the Board of Governors (Mrs G Crowe) & Designated Governor for Child Protection (Mrs P McClements).

Other members of staff need to know only enough to prepare them to act with sensitivity to a distressed pupil. They do not need to know detail.

Record Keeping

All child protection records, information and confidential notes are stored securely and only the Designated Teacher/Deputy Designated Teacher and Principal have access to them. In accordance with DE policy on the disposal of child protection records these records will be stored from child's date of birth plus 30 years as per (DE Circular 2016/20 Child Protection: Record Keeping in Schools).

Staff will make notes at the time of the disclosure on the school pro- as soon as possible. The date, time, place, any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child will be recorded. Staff will be made aware that their note of the discussion might need to be used in any subsequent court proceedings

All records, information and confidential notes will be kept in separate files in the locked Safeguarding File Box. These will only identify the child by their initials and date of birth. These records are kept separate from the child's individual report.

Where an allegation is made against a member of staff and is pursued either as a formal referral or under the school's disciplinary procedures, a summary is entered on a 'Record of Abuse Complaints Notebook'. This entry, which will contain details of the complaint, is stored in the locked Safeguarding Drawer, and will be made available to the Board of Governors at least annually and signed by the Chairman if appropriate.

In addition to the above, the school specifically recognises the need to protect children when:

- On school trips;
- Using the internet;
- Administering medication;
- Changing wet or soiled clothes.

For this reason, the schools will seek parental consent on:

- All out of school activities;
- Photographic Consent Form;
- Access to the internet;
- Administration of medication;
- Changing procedures.

Safeguarding in the Curriculum

The school seeks to promote pupils' awareness and understanding of safeguarding issues, including those related to child protection through its curriculum. The safeguarding of children is an important focus in the school's personal development programme and is also addressed where it arises within the context of other subjects. Furthermore, school posters/displays include information directing a pupil on how to seek help, advice and support within the school and from external agencies and professionals.

Vetting Procedures

All staff paid or unpaid who are appointed to positions in Drumahoe Primary School are vetted / supervised in accordance with relevant legislation and Departmental guidance. Staff such as teaching and non-teaching, including parent volunteers, students on work experience, external coaches and music tutors, will be subject to vetting procedures through Access NI before permission is granted to work in the school, either on a paid or voluntary basis. Copies of Access NI Certificates will be kept in the Secretary's Office.

Code of Conduct for all Staff Paid or Unpaid

All actions concerning children and young people must uphold the best interests of the young person as a primary consideration. Staff must always be mindful of the fact that they hold a position of trust and that their behaviour towards the child and young people in their charge must be above reproach.

All members of staff are expected to comply with the school's Code of Conduct for Employees and Volunteers.

Staff Training

All staff will receive basic child protection awareness training and regular refresher training. Each member of staff will receive the general training on this policy and the procedures once every two years. This will be led by the Designated Teacher for Child Protection. The Designated Teacher and deputy Designated Teacher will also avail of courses offered by the EA and other multi-disciplinary agencies. When new staff or volunteers start at the school they are briefed on the school's Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct and given copies of these policies.

The Principal, Designated Teacher/Deputy Designated Teacher, Chair of the Board of Governors and Designated Governor for Child Protection will also attend child protection training courses specific to their roles which is provided by the Education Authority's Child Protection Support Service for Schools.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Safeguarding Team will discuss all current Child Protection issues on a termly basis or if and when required. The Board of Governors (who have reviewed and approved this policy) will also be advised of relevant Child protection issues at regular intervals during the course of the school year. Specific details will not be shared with the Governors and confidentiality will be maintained. The Safeguarding Team will

review this policy annually and advise Governors and parents of changes when necessary. All parents will receive a summary (in the form of a tri-fold pamphlet and Parent version of the Child Protection Policy) once every two years outlining the basic Child Protection Procedures and Policy.

The policy will be implemented through the school’s staff induction and training programme and as part of day to day practice. Compliance with the policy will be monitored on an on-going basis by the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and periodically by the Schools Safeguarding Team.

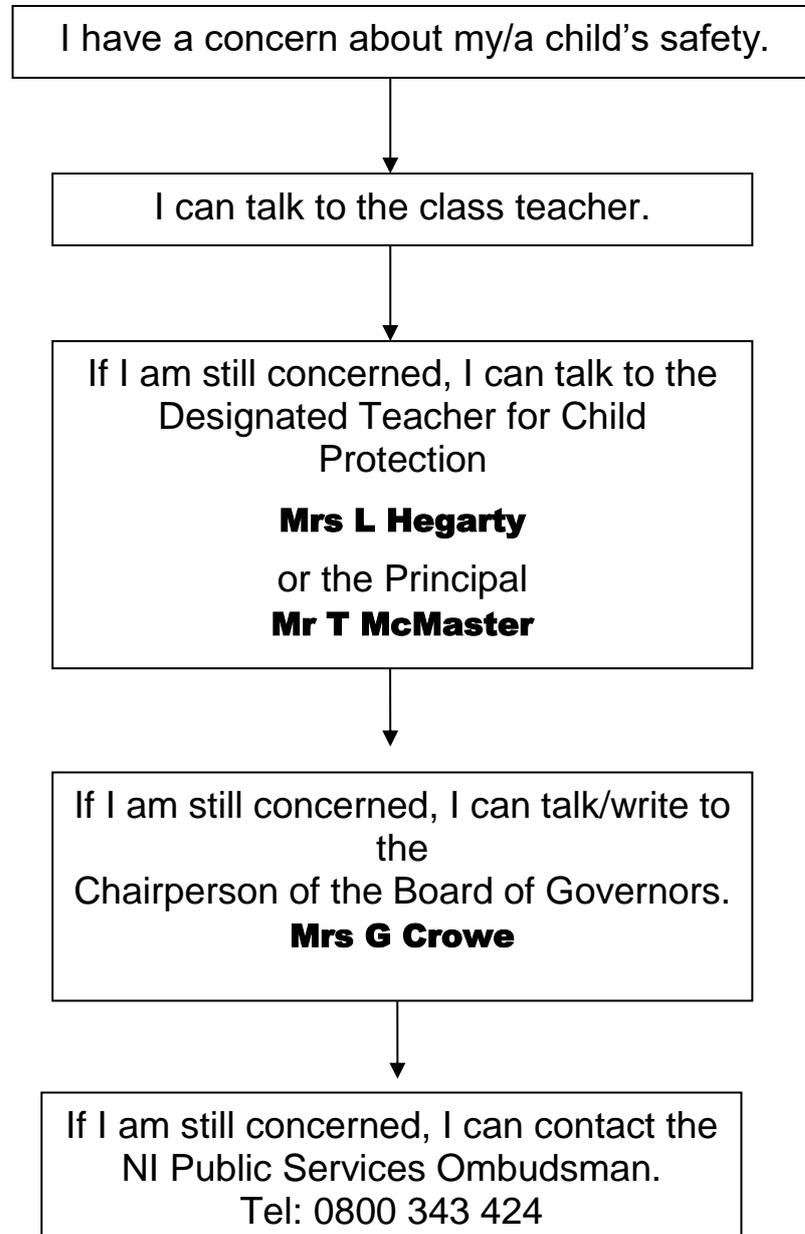
USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

EA Child Protection Officers:	028 82411480
Child Protection Support Service (CPSS)	028-95985590
Western Health & Social Care Trust Gateway Team	028 71314090
PSNI Public Protection Unit	999 – Emergency 101 – Mon-Emergency
PSNI CARE Unit - Maydown	02870344122
Childline	0800 1111
NSPCC	0808 800 5000





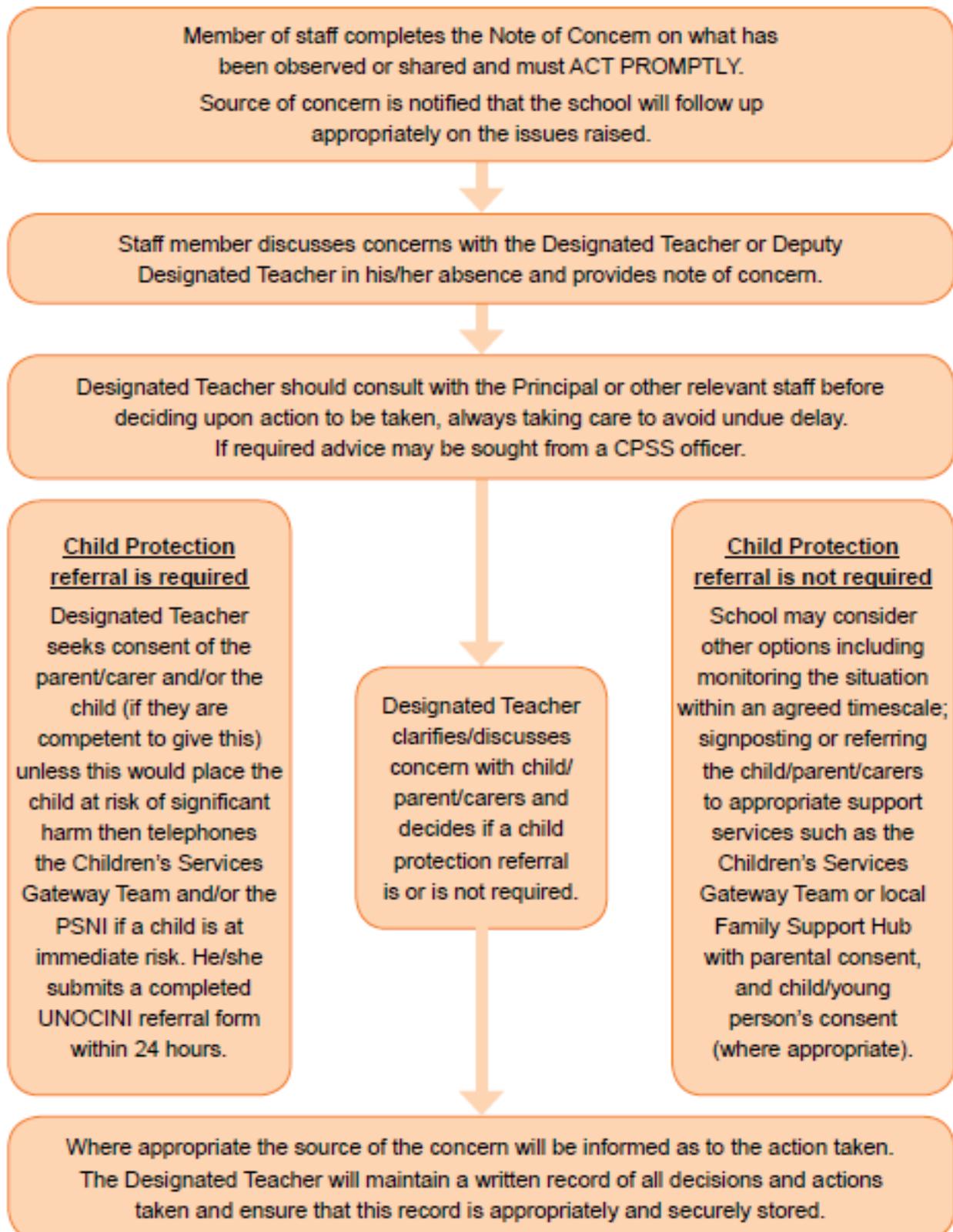
Procedure for Parents who wish to raise a Child Protection Concern



At any time, a parent can talk to a social worker at the Gateway Team (Western Trust) Tel: 028 71314 090 or the PSNI Central Referral Unit (CRU) – Tel: 028-9025 9299

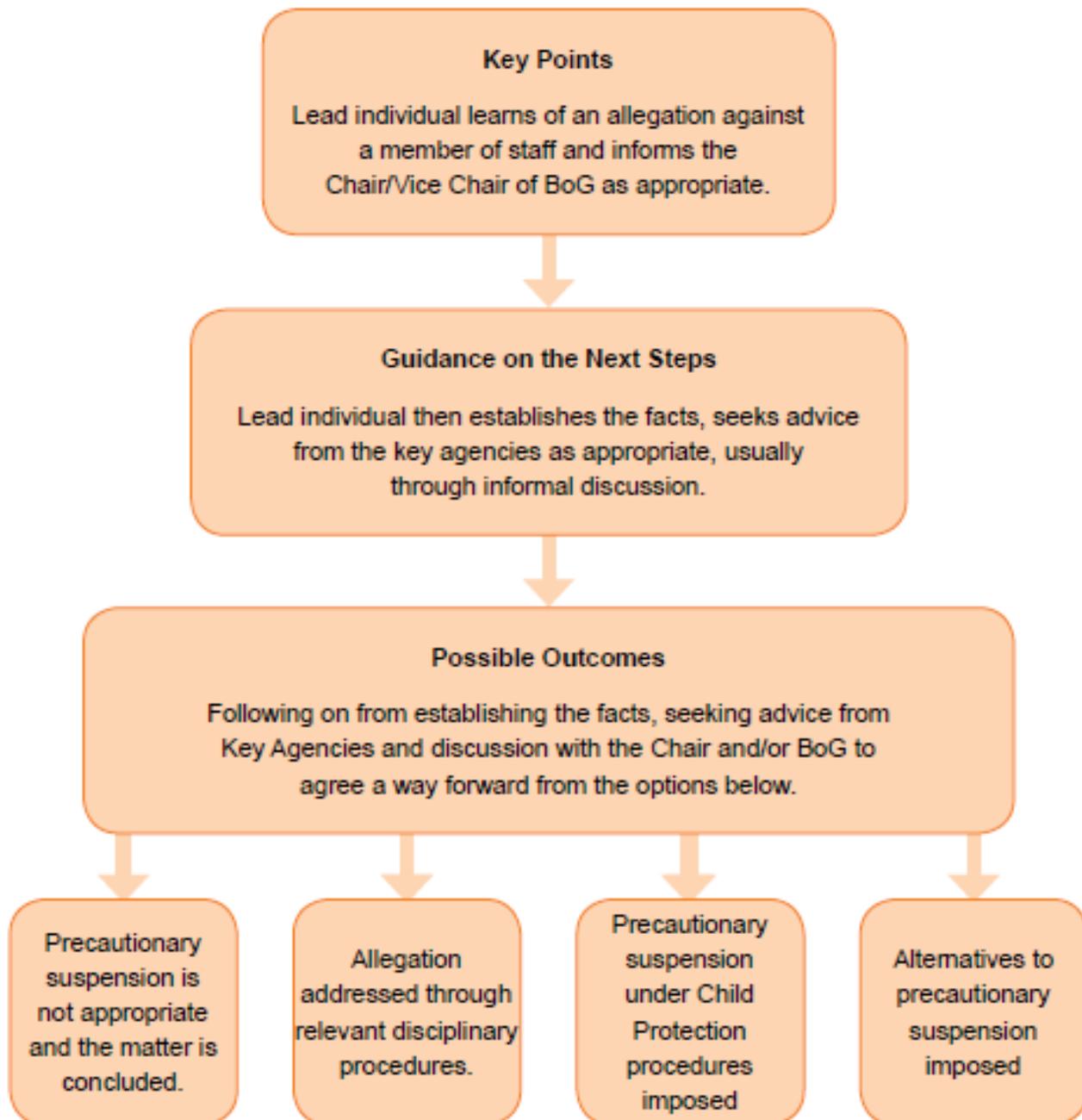


Procedure where the School has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff^{7,8}





Dealing with Allegations of Abuse Against a Member of Staff^{8,10}



Types of Abuse and Physical/Behavioural Indicators

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.

(Co- operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016)

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
Looks very thin, poorly and sad; constant hunger; lack of energy; untreated medical problems; special needs of child not being met; constant tiredness; inappropriate dress; poor hygiene; repeatedly unwashed; smelly; repeated accidents, especially burns.	Tired or listless (falls asleep in class); steals food; compulsive eating; begging from class friends; withdrawn; lacks concentration; misses school medicals; reports that there is no carer is at home; low self-esteem; persistent non-attendance at school; exposure to violence including unsuitable videos.

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.

(Co- operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016)

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
Unexplained bruises – in various stages of healing; grip marks on arms; slap marks; human bite marks; welts; bald spots; unexplained/untreated burns; especially cigarette burns (glove like); unexplained fractures; lacerations or abrasions; untreated injuries; bruising on both sides of the ear – symmetrical bruising should be treated with suspicion; injuries occurring in a time pattern e.g. every Monday	Self-destructive tendencies; aggression to other children; behavioural extremes (withdrawn or aggressive); appears frightened or cowed in presence of adults; improbable excuses to explain injuries; chronic runaway; uncomfortable with physical contact; coming to school early or staying last as if afraid to be at home; clothing inappropriate to weather – to hide part of body; violent themes in art work or stories

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 on-line bullying through social networks, on-line games or mobile phones – by a child's peers. (Co- operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016)

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
Well below average in height and weight; "failing to thrive"; poor hair and skin; alopecia; swollen extremities i.e. icy cold and swollen hands and feet; recurrent diarrhoea, wetting and soiling; sudden speech disorders; signs of self-mutilation; signs of solvent abuse (e.g. mouth sores, smell of glue, drowsiness); extremes of physical, mental and emotional development (e.g. anorexia, vomiting, stooping).	Apathy and dejection; inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations; rocking/head banging; inability to play; indifference to separation from family; indiscriminate attachment; reluctance for parental liaison; fear of new situation; chronic runaway; attention seeking/needing behaviour; poor peer relationships.

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.

(Co- operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016)

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
bruises, scratches, bite marks or other injuries to breasts, buttocks, lower abdomen or thighs; bruises or bleeding in genital or anal areas; torn, stained or bloody underclothes; chronic ailments such as recurrent abdominal pains or headaches; difficulty in walking or sitting; frequent urinary infections;	What the child tells you; Withdrawn; chronic depression; excessive sexual precociousness; seductiveness; children having knowledge beyond their usual frame of reference e.g. young child who can describe details of adult sexuality; parent/child role reversal; over concerned for siblings;

<p>avoidance of lessons especially PE, games, showers; unexplained pregnancies where the identity of the father is vague; anorexia/gross over-eating.</p>	<p>poor self-esteem; self-devaluation; lack of confidence; peer problems; lack of involvement; massive weight change; suicide attempts (especially adolescents); hysterical/angry outbursts; lack of emotional control; sudden school difficulties e.g. deterioration in school work or behaviour; inappropriate sex play; repeated attempts to run away from home; unusual or bizarre sexual themes in children's art work or stories; vulnerability to sexual and emotional exploitation; promiscuity; exposure to pornographic material</p>
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Exploitation 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.

Although '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.

(Co- operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016)

A child may suffer or be at risk of suffering from one or more types of abuse and abuse may take place on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time.

Child Abuse in Other Specific Circumstances

Bullying

Bullying is not defined as a category of abuse within the Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures (2005). The policy does however state that the damage inflicted by bullying behaviour can frequently be underestimated. It can cause considerable distress to children and at the extreme cause them significant harm (including self-harm).

The procedure for referral and investigation of abuse may therefore be implemented in certain circumstances such as when anti-bullying procedures have failed to be effective; the bullying behaviour is persistent and severe resulting in the target of the bullying suffering/likely to suffer significant harm; there are concerns that the bullying behaviour is indicative of the child exhibiting this behaviour suffering/likely to suffer significant harm or where concerns exist in relation to the parents/carer's capacity to meet the needs of the child (either the target or the child exhibiting this behaviour).

Children Who Sexually Abuse Others or Display Sexually Harmful Behaviour

When abuse of a child is alleged to have been carried out by another child, the procedures outlined in the section on **Procedures for Reporting Suspected or Disclosed Child Abuse** of this policy will be followed. It is important in such situations to distinguish between behaviours which are experimental in nature and those that are exploitative and harmful. Advice and support will be sought in such circumstances from the Education Authority's Designated Officer for Child Protection and where appropriate a referral made to the statutory agencies. In all such cases a risk assessment will be undertaken and an individual support and safety plan identified. Appropriate services will also be provided for the children involved. The above guidance follows DE Circular 2016/05 subject Children Who Display Harmful Sexualized Behaviour.

Child Sexual Exploitation

'Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.'

(Co- operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2016)

The key factor that distinguishes cases of CSE from other forms of child sexual abuse is the concept of exchange – the fact that someone coerces or manipulates a child into engaging in sexual activity **in return for something** they need or desire and/or for the gain of those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse. The something received by the child or young person can include both tangible items and/or more intangible 'rewards' or 'benefits' such as perceived affection, protection or a sense of value or belonging.

Any child under the age of eighteen, male or female, can be a victim of CSE, including those who can legally consent to have sex. The abuse most frequently impacts upon those of a post-primary age and can be perpetrated by adults or peers, on an individual or group basis.

The potential indicators of CSE can include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phone etc without plausible explanation;
- Leaving home/care without permission;
- Persistently going missing or returning late;
- Receiving lots of texts/phone calls prior to leaving;
- Agitated/stressed prior to leaving home/care;
- Returning distraught/ dishevelled or under the influence of substances;
- Requesting the morning after pill upon return;
- Truancy from school;
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age;
- Physical symptoms or infections e.g. bruising, bite marks, sexually transmitted infections;
- Concerning use of the internet;
- Entering or leaving cars driven by unknown adults or by taxis;
- New peer groups;
- Significantly older 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend';
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours;
- Low self-esteem;
- Change in personal hygiene (greater attention or less);
- Self harm and other expressions of despair;
- Evidence or suspicion of substance misuse.

Whilst these indicators can be usefully used to identify potential risk, it is important to note that their presence does not necessarily mean that CSE is occurring. More importantly, nor does their absence, mean that it is not.

Indecent Photographs

The offence of taking indecent pictures of children under 18 years can apply in a situation where a pupil has taken an indecent picture using a mobile phone of others under 18 years of age. It is also an offence to distribute, possess with intent to distribute or show such photographs to others. In such circumstances the PSNI and Social Services will be contacted. The school also has an e-safety/ mobile phone and electronic devices (or similarly named policies) which has/have been circulated to parents and pupils and which is available from the school.

Young Person whose Behaviour places him/her at Risk of Significant Harm

A child whose own behaviours e.g. self-harming behaviour, leaving school without permission etc. places him/her at risk of significant harm, may not necessarily constitute abuse as defined in Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures (2005). The decision to initiate child protection procedures is a matter for professional judgement and each case will be considered individually with advice sought from the Education Authority's Designated Officer for Child Protection. The criminal aspects of such cases will be dealt with by the PSNI.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Is defined as threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual ,financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender, identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member.'

(Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland A Seven Year Strategy: March 2016)

Sexual Violence and Abuse

Is defines as 'any behaviour (physical, psychological, verbal, virtual /online) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is controlling, coercive, exploitative, harmful or unwanted that is inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability).'

Please note that coercive, exploitative and harmful behaviour includes taking advantage of an individual's incapacity to give informed consent.

(Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland A Seven Year Strategy: March 2016)

A child may live in a family where there is domestic abuse or a young person may be in a relationship where they become the subject of domestic abuse. In high risk cases involving domestic abuse Social Services and/or the Education Authority's Designated Officer for Child Protection will contact the school in order to help assess the child/young person's needs and to ensure that he/she is receives appropriate support.

KEY CONTACT NUMBERS

CHILD PROTECTION SUPPORT SERVICE

Tel: 028-95985590

EDUCATION AUTHORITY WESTERN REGION

Designated Officer for Child Protection

1 Hospital Road Omagh

Tel: 028 82411480

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Gateway Team, Whitehill,

106 Irish Street, Londonderry

Tel: 028-71314090

PSNI

Central Referral Unit (CRU) – for child sexual & physical abuse allegations. Tel: 028- 90259299