

We, in St. Ronan's PS believe that every child or young person has the fundamental right to be safe from harm. We believe we have to promote an ethos of a caring, supportive environment in which staff & pupils can work in mutual respect. We recognise the importance of involving the parents & other outside agencies within the community if we are to achieve success in this area.

**Our Pastoral Care Policy aims to help each pupil:**

- ❖ Feel a sense of dignity & self-worth.
- ❖ Experience success & achievement & feel valued as a person.
- ❖ Develop a sense of responsibility towards himself/herself & others.

**The delivery of Pastoral Care is the responsibility of all within the school.**

It is co-ordinated by our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

**A Child Protection Policy operates within our school.**

We aim to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school (teachers, non-teaching staff & volunteers) have clear guidance on the detection, & inter-agency management of a situation where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. This is done through child protection training for all staff every 2 years.

**Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following Principles:**

- ❖ Children should be listened to & taken seriously;
- ❖ In any incident the child's welfare must always be paramount;
- ❖ A proper balance must be struck between protecting children & respecting the rights & needs of parents & families, but where there is conflict the child's interests must always come first;

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that children have *the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse by those looking after them.*

**The Children Order**

The central thrust of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, which came into effect on 4 November 1996, is that *the welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration*, and it is this essential principle which underpins the advice by which we work.

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. The problem 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?**

We use the following definition:

**Neglect** – the persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

**Physical** – physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

**Sexual** – the sexual exploitation of a child or young person.

**Emotional** – persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child.

**Domestic Violence** – threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse inflicted on anyone by a current or former partner/family member

In St Ronan's we believe that an ethos of caring permeates all our activities.

Listed below are the various approaches that we currently take to protect children.

- All our staff and volunteers have been subject to appropriate background checks.
- All non-teaching staff are informed of school procedures regarding child protection issues
- Designated teacher is: Mrs G Smith
- Deputy designated teacher is: Mrs Patterson, Mrs Farrell, Mr Mc Ivor
- CCTV Security system at main door.
- All children who leave at other than normal dismissal times must be collected from the office.
- Written permission is required before a child can leave school.
- Children are accompanied safely off the premises
- Children are encouraged to report any incidences of bullying. These are dealt with promptly.
- External classroom doors are locked at 9.05am.
- Visitors will sign in and be issued with a pass.

**Mobile Phones/Smart Watches**

Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phone/smart watches into school. If a parent needs to contact a pupil urgently – please ring the school and the message will be given to the child.

**Photographs/Videos**

Written permission from parent/guardian will be sought at the beginning of each school year.

**Intimate Care**

Written permission from parent/guardian will be sought at the beginning of the school year the child starts. The dignity and privacy of the child is to be preserved at all times.

**Vetting Procedures**

All volunteers have been vetted in accordance with current legislation

Parents may request a copy of the Child Protection Policy from the School Office. The Policy can also be accessed on the school's website.

Children with disabilities have equal rights to protection. However, they may have particular needs which require specialist attention.

Overall our staff believe that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm & to have proper care given to his or her physical, emotional & spiritual wellbeing. Each child has to be given the opportunity to express their feelings & thoughts.

We have established procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected child abuse. Two main points need to be emphasised:

- 1) **Information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held in 'confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals.**
- 2) **In all cases of suspected child abuse, the school will inform Social Services & the EA's Designated Officer for Child Protection and CCMS (for incidents involving teachers). The school will not be involved in investigating the suspected abuse.**

**CONTACTS**

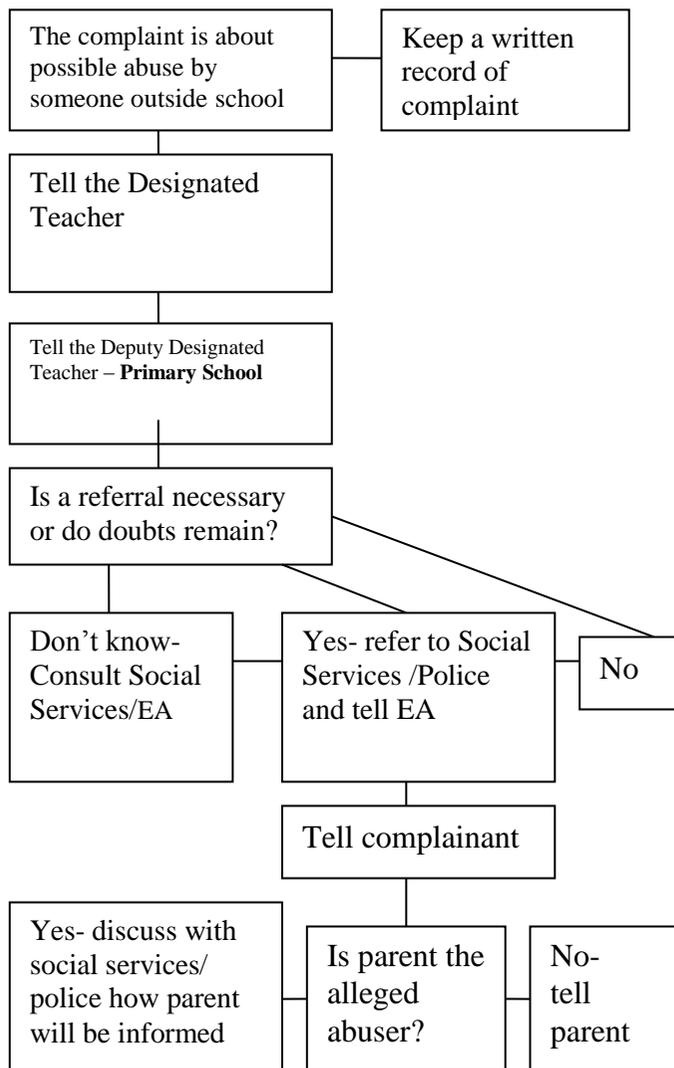
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline  
24 hours call free -  
0800-800500

Childline UK  
Freepost 1111  
London N1 OBR  
Tel: 0800-1111 (free)

Newry CARE Unit  
Ardmore RUC Station  
3 Belfast Road Newry  
BT34 1EF  
Tel: 028 30832011



**Procedure where a school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school's staff.**

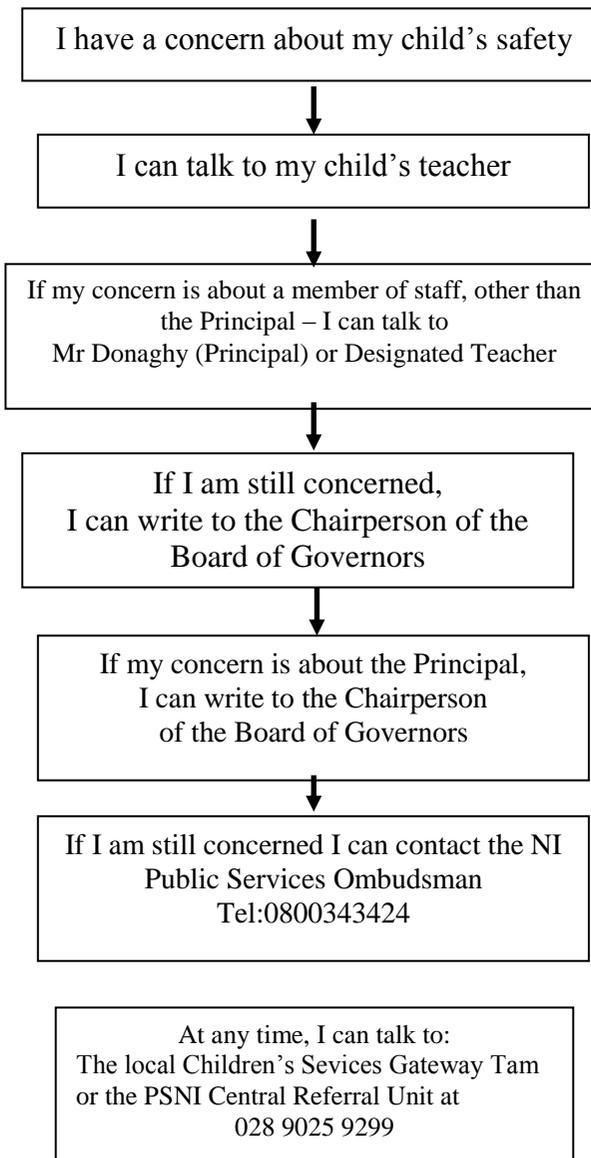


*The designated teacher is a senior member of staff who is responsible for liaising with Trust Child Care Services and other relevant agencies on individual cases of suspected child abuse or where more general concerns exist about a child.*

In all their contact with pupils, the staff of St Ronan's PS, will follow the guidelines & procedures set out in the Department of Education circular: Pastoral Care in School - Child Protection 2017/04 & Welfare & Protection for pupils 2003/13 & the Staff Code of Conduct.

The Child Protection Policy will be updated in the light of any further guidance & legislation as necessary & will be reviewed annually by Mr Donaghy and the Safeguarding Team.

### How a parent can make a complaint?



## St. Ronan's PRIMARY SCHOOL



### CHILD PROTECTION A Guide for Parents



This leaflet is meant as a summary of our Child Protection Policy. Full copies of the following policies can be obtained on request:

- ❖ Pastoral Care
- ❖ Child Protection
- ❖ Positive Behaviour Management
- ❖ Anti-bullying
- ❖ Acceptable Use of the Internet

If you have any concerns about any aspect of your child's education, please contact the school to arrange a meeting with one or more of the following members of the staff/Safe Guarding Team:

- ❖ Class Teacher
- ❖ **Safe Guarding Team**
- ❖ Principal - K. Donaghy
- ❖ Designated Teacher – G. Smith (VP)
- ❖ Deputy Designated Teachers  
A. Patterson  
M. Mc Ivor  
P. Farrell

