

In response to recent changes in legislation , we are required to inform parents of the school's child protection arrangements and procedures, should they have a concern about a child's safety.

CHILD PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

What if a parent has a concern about possible child abuse?

If you are concerned about the safety of your child (or another) then you should speak either to the class teacher or directly to the school's designated teacher, Mr. Wright, or in his absence to Mrs. Bell, or Miss Thompson for Nursery.

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse *cannot* be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, the staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However only those who need to know will be told.

The class teacher will not investigate the matter but will report the concerns to Mr. Wright, Mrs. Bell or Miss Thompson, who will keep a written record of the concerns. The principal will then decide whether, in the best interests of the child, the matter needs to be referred to the Social Services.

PLEASE NOTE: 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 may be the possible abuser, the parents will be informed immediately.

The principal may seek advice or clarification and consult with Ms. Alex Barr, the S.E.L.B. Designated Officer or the Senior Social Worker before a referral is made. No decision to refer a case to Social Services will be made without the fullest consideration and on appropriate advice.

The safety of the child is our first priority.

If a complaint about possible child abuse concerns a member of staff, the Principal must be informed immediately. Where the matter is referred to Social Services, 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. If a complaint is made against the Principal, one of the deputy-designated teachers, Mrs. Bell or Miss Thompson, should be informed immediately. She will inform the Chairman of the Board of Governors and together they will ensure that the necessary action is taken.

How a parent can make a complaint.

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



I can talk to the class/form teacher



If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mr. Wright, the designated teacher for child protection, or Mrs. Bell or Miss Thompson the deputy designated teachers.



If I am still concerned, I can talk or write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors.

At any time , I can talk to the social worker (C'town 86762792) or the PSNI (028 90259299 – OR 101 ext 30299)

Other useful contacts who will also deal with your query include:

NSPCC - 24 hour call line 0800 800500

Barnardos 01232672366

Save the Children 01232 431314

Childline 0800 1111