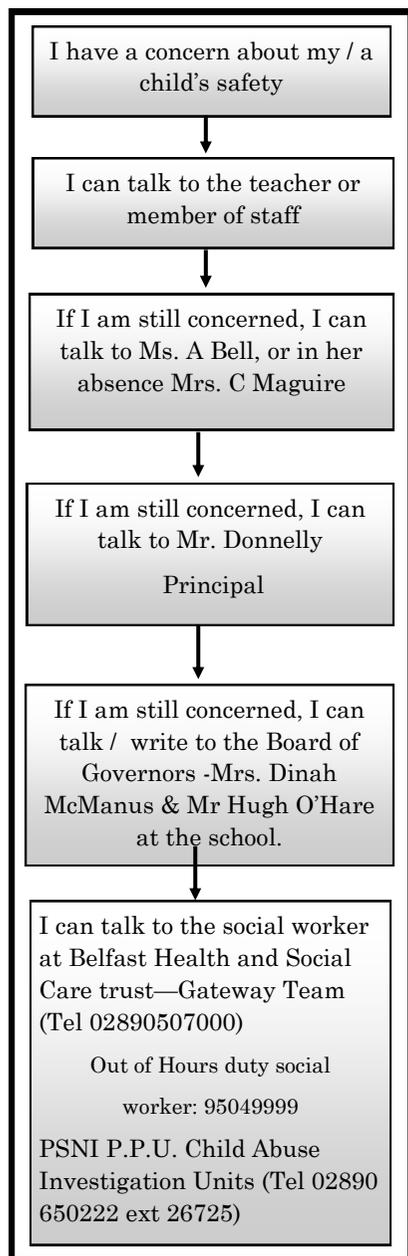


How A Parent Can Express Concern



A copy of the full policy on Safeguarding and Child Protection is available at the school office.

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Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

*A Guide for
Visitors and
Parents*

*St. John the Baptist
Primary School*

Tel: 028 90 614546

School Policy

In St. John the Baptist PS, we aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

It is our responsibility to ensure that all individuals are protected from the risks of possible abuse.

The problem of child abuse, if it occurs, will not be ignored by anyone in our school.

All schools are required by law to have a Safeguarding Child Protection Policy and to communicate this to parents / visitors. This leaflet is a summary of our school policy on Child Protection.

Abuse can take any of the following forms:

Neglect:

The persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision. It may also include non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical:

The persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that she/he is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as she/he meets the needs of another person. It may involve causing a child frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a child. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may expose a child to emotional abuse.

Sexual:

The sexual exploitation of a child for an adult's or another young person's own sexual gratification; the involvement of children in sexual activities they do not truly comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate the social taboos of family roles.

Emotional:

Actual or likely persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/ or behavioural development of a child. All abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment.

Exploitation:

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. Exploitation can also be sexual in nature.

Bullying:

The deliberate hurtful behaviour of a physical, verbal or indirect nature which may be repeated over a period of time.

Procedures For Reporting Suspected (or Disclosed) Child Abuse

If, at any time, a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff that gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, the member of staff will act immediately and the following process will be applied:

He/ she will speak to:

The Designated Teacher—Ms. Anne Bell or in her absence the Deputy Designated teacher—Mrs. Catherine Maguire.

The Designated and Deputy Designated teachers will discuss all issues and follow the guidelines / procedures in the school's Child Protection Policy.

Where a disclosure is made, the school is legally obliged to refer the matter to Social Services immediately.

We are now an **Operation Encompass** school. Operation Encompass is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools aimed at supporting children who are impacted by domestic abuse. If the Police attend a Domestic Abuse incident, and one of our pupils is present, they will notify our school, usually at the start of the next working day. All Operation Encompass information is shared with school staff on a strictly need to know basis.