

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

If you have concerns about a/your child's welfare, what should you do?

- First of all talk to the class teacher.
- If the issue has not been resolved, please contact Mrs McGuigan (or Mrs Burns/Mr McVeigh in Mrs McGuigan's absence.)
- If still concerned, contact the Principal
- If still concerned, write to the Designated Governor for Child Protection (Mr Sean Patterson) or Chairperson of the Board of Governors (Ms Joanna Tarach).
- If you are still not happy contact the Designated Child Protection Officers with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) or the Education Authority (Belfast Area).

USEFUL NUMBERS

- Holy Rosary Primary School:
028 9049 1817
- Designated Governor for Child Protection or Chairperson of the Board of Governors:
028 9049 1817
- Designated Officer (CCMS):
028 9042 6972
- Designated Officer (EA Belfast):
028 9056 4000

PROCEDURES FOR THE SCHOOL

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs McGuigan. In her absence, Mrs Burns or Mr McVeigh (DDTs) will assume responsibility for Child Protection matters.

1. If any member of staff or visitor has concerns about a child they must act promptly and report the matter to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, and ensure that a written record is made.
2. The Designated Teacher will then discuss the matter with the DDTs & Principal as a matter of urgency to plan a course of action, and ensure that an update to the written record is made.
3. If there are concerns that the child is at risk, the school is obliged to make a referral to Social Services or PSNI, and notify the Designated Child Protection Officers within CCMS and E.A. (Belfast).
4. Unless there are concerns that a parent may be the possible abuser, the parents will be informed.

A full copy of the school's Policy on Child Protection & Safeguarding is available on request from the Office, or on the school website.

HOLY ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Information for Parents/Visitors

CHILD PROTECTION

&

SAFEGUARDING

Happy, Respectful, Progressive, Successful



MISSION STATEMENT

In Holy Rosary PS we believe our school to be a vital part of the overall Catholic Community providing an educational experience in accordance with Christ's teaching that is inclusive and that celebrates diversity.

Our school is welcoming, caring, safe & secure reflecting the highest standards of pastoral care. A child friendly school in which every child is encouraged to grow & develop into responsible citizens, able to make reasonable & informed decisions based on their faith, respect, rights, environmental / global awareness, equality & social justice.

PRINCIPLES

We in Holy Rosary have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge.

We seek to protect our pupils by helping them learn about risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

Every member of staff has clear guidance on the action that is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

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 criminal offences.

ALL STAFF HAVE A LEGAL DUTY TO REFER DISCLOSURES OR SUSPICIONS.

THE FIRST AND FOREMOST OBLIGATION IS TO THE CHILD.

TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE

The categories of child abuse are as follows:

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 and persistent unexplained absences from school.

PHYSICAL – physical injury to child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

SEXUAL (includes Child Sexual Exploitation) – 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 of any kind (including exposure to pornography) which they do not understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate normal family roles.

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

Also includes-

Bullying (including Cyber bullying)

Domestic Abuse

Female Genital Mutilation

Overly sexualised behaviour and/or language