

Macosquin Primary School



Child Protection and Safeguarding Information for Parents



Aims:

As a school community, we in Macosquin Primary School have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care. 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.

Principles:

Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following principles:

- 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.
- Responses should be proportionate to the circumstances and decision making should be evidence based.

School Safeguarding Team:

The members of the School's Safeguarding Team are:

The Chair of the BoG/ The Designated Governor for Child Protection:

Mr D. Pavey

The School Principal:

Mrs L. McElwee

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection:

Mrs C. Allen

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection:

Procedures:

In order to protect our pupils we at Macosquin Primary School will adhere to the following procedures.

- All staff and volunteers will have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect is suspected.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo a vetting procedure in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.
- All teaching and ancillary staff will attend a Child Protection training programme organised by the Designated Teacher.
- Children will be supervised at all times while in the school grounds.
- When it is necessary to change the child's normal travel arrangements permission will only be given on receipt of a written request or telephone call by a parent/guardian.
- All visitors to the school must report to the Secretary's office and sign in/out.
- Pupils are not permitted to have access to or use of mobile telephones at school.

Bullying:

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will be responded to sensitively in our school.

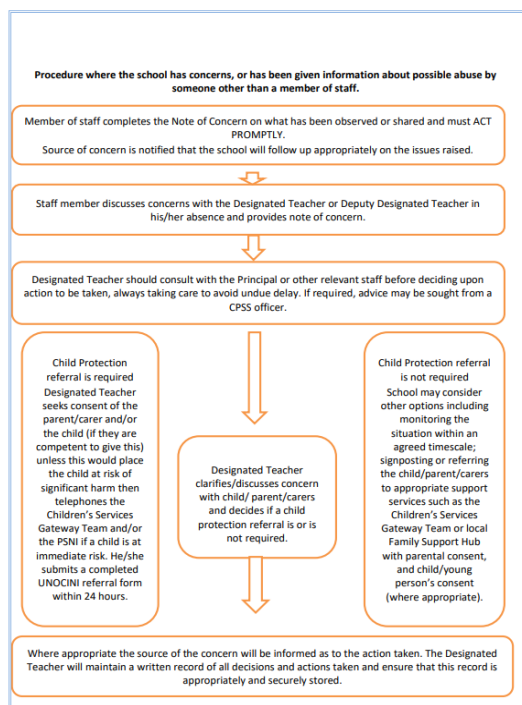
All staff will be vigilant at all times and will aim to prevent bullying by raising awareness with pupils, staff and parents about bullying, its forms and consequences.

All staff at Macosquin Primary School will ensure that all children are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs C. Allen and the Deputy, Mr P. Grant will assume responsibility in her absence.

The Department of Education of Northern Ireland requires all those working in education to co-operate fully with social services and other agencies to protect children. It is therefore our duty to refer if there is a concern about any form of abuse.

The following diagram shows the procedures where the school has concerns, or has been given information about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff.



Pastoral Care:

Macosquin Primary School is committed to the provision of a high quality of education for all pupils and high standards to all whom it serves.

We believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the parents/guardians of our pupils is very important. A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our children learn and develop to their full potential in

a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this.

If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son/daughter's care/education please contact the school office.

We would also encourage you attend our Parent-Teacher meeting so that members of staff can keep you informed regarding your child's progress and development.

If you have any concerns about your child's safety you should use the following procedures to make a complaint:

- I have a concern about my child's safety
- I can talk to the teacher
- If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection/Principal
- If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors
- If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Service Ombudsman.
- At any time I can talk to the Social Worker in Gateway (Tel: 028 703 25462), Out of Hours for All Areas (028 95049999) or the PSNI Public Protection (Tel: 02890 259299).

This leaflet can only provide a summary of our Child Protection Policy, the more detailed policy is available to view from the school website. Contact details are provided on this leaflet.

This policy is reviewed annually and this summary is issued to parents yearly. Should you have any questions to ask in relation to the content of this leaflet or the full policy, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, via the school office.

The following are a list of other related Pastoral Care Policies which are available to view on the school website:

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Use of Reasonable Force and Safe Handling Policy
- Educational visits
- First Aid and the Administration of Medicines
- Health and Safety Policy
- Relationships and Sexual Education Policy
- Drugs Policy
- E Safety Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Pupil Attendance Policy

Useful Contact Details:

School Address:

34 Dunderg Road, Macosquin, BT51 4ND

Telephone: 028 70 344 317

Email: info@macosquinps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk

Social Services Gateway Team:

028 70 325 462

Out of Hours: 028 950 49999

PSNI Public Protection Unit: 02890 259299