

St. Patrick's P.S. aims to establish a caring environment within which the academic, personal, social and spiritual potential of each child will be developed. The pastoral dimension permeates all school activities. We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge and we will carry out this duty through our Pastoral Care policy which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

Principles:

Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following principles:

- ◆ The child's welfare must always be paramount.
- ◆ Children must always have a right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously.
- ◆ Parents/carers have a right to respect but a proper balance must be struck between ensuring this and protecting children.
- ◆ Every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well being.

School Safeguarding Team

Members of the school's Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors :

Fr Colhoun

The Designated Governor for Child Protection :

(Mrs. A Bradley)

The School Principal :

(Mr. Torney)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection :

(Mrs Neill)

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection :

(Mr McGlone)

Members of the team have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of pupils within the school and these are detailed in our full Child Protection policy.

In order to protect our pupils, we at St. Patrick's P.S. will adhere to the following procedures:

- * All staff - teachers, non-teaching 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 pupils.
- * 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. Regular visitors (eg Peripatetic teachers) will wear a visitor badge.

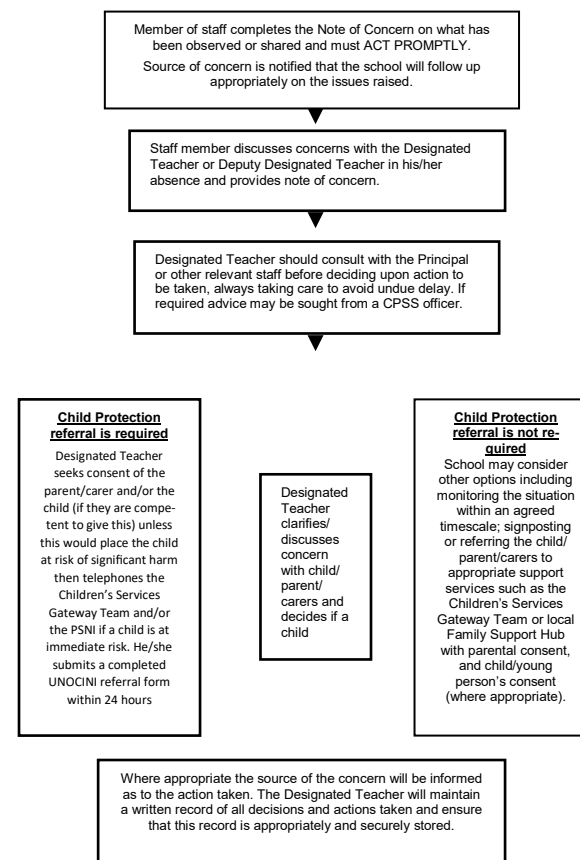
Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will be responded to sensitively in our school. All staff will be vigilant at all times and will aim to prevent bullying by raising awareness with pupils, staff and parents about bullying, its forms and its consequences.

All staff at St. Patrick's P.S. 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 Neill and the Deputy, Mr McGlone, 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 we are required to follow and is based upon the procedure described in the Department of Education publication "Safeguarding & Child Protection in Schools—A Guide for Schools (2017)."



St. Patrick's P.S. 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 and arrange a meeting with the Principal and/or the class teacher.

We would also encourage you to attend our Parent/Teacher meeting at the beginning of the year 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 procedure to make a complaint:

- ◆ I can talk to the Class Teacher
- ◆ If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Ms Neill).
- ◆ If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal (Mr. Torney).
- ◆ If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Patrick's P.S.
- ◆ At any time, I can talk to
A Social Worker in the Gateway Team
[tel: 028 7131 4090]
The PSNI Public Protection Unit [tel: 101]

This leaflet can only provide a summary of our Child Protection policy and a more detailed policy is available on request from the school office. Contact details are provided below. This policy will be reviewed annually and issued to parents at least once every 2 years.

Should you have any questions to ask or comments to make in relation to the contents of this leaflet or the full policy, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Ms Neill).

The following are a list of other related Pastoral Care policies which are also available from the school:

Behaviour Policy
Anti-Bullying
Use of Reasonable Force/Safe Handling
Special Educational Needs
Educational Visits
First Aid and the Administration of Medicines
Health and Safety
Sex Education
Use of Mobile Phones/Cameras
ICT and access to the Internet
Intimate Care
Comments/Complaints

Other useful contact numbers:

School Address: 59 Dublin Street, Newtownstewart,
Co. Tyrone. BT79 4AQ
Tel: 028 8166 1611

Email:

Info@stpatricksp.s.newtownstewart.ni.sch.uk

Web address: <http://www.stpatricksn.ts.com>

Social Services Gateway Team: 028 7131 4090

PSNI Public Protection Unit: 101

St Patrick's Primary School



Child Protection

59 Dublin St
Newtownstewart
Co Tyrone
BT78 4AQ

Tel : (028) 8166 1611
Fax : (028) 8166 1645

E-mail :
info@stpatricksp.s.newtownstewart.ni.sch.uk
Website : www.stpatricksn.ts.com