

How a parent can make a complaint

I have a concern about my/ a child's safety
I can talk to the class teacher
If I am still concerned, I can talk to the designated teachers for Child Protection, <u>Orlagh Uí Dheoráin, Rachael Nig Uiginn</u> or in the case of the náiscoil, <u>Fionnuala Ní Dhuifinn</u> .
If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal
If I am still concerned, I can talk/ write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors
If I am still concerned I can write to: Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman Office of the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman Progressive House 33 Wellington Place Belfast BT1 6HN Freepost: FREEPOST NIPSO Telephone: 02890 233821 Freephone: 0800 34 34 24
At any time, I can talk to a Social Worker or the Police

USEFUL CONTACTS

www.familysupportni.gov.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk
www.addictionni.com

Advice and support are available from:

EA Child Protection Team
02894482223

Northern Ireland Childline
0800 11 11

N.S.P.C.C. Helpline
0808 800 5000

Gateway Service for Children's Social Work
0800 783 7745
(free from land lines only)



Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí

Polasaí Chosaint Pháistí
Achoimre do thuismitheoirí
agus chúramóirí

Child Protection Policy
Summary for parents and
carers

Dear Parent,

This is a brief summary of our Policy document on Child Protection to acquaint parents of its principal content. The complete document can be found within our Child Protection Policy document which is available to view on the school website www.gaelscoilantseanchai.com.

The purpose of our Child Protection procedures is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in the school has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

- Children will be listened to and taken seriously
- In any incident the child's welfare and safety is our paramount consideration
- Procedures are in place in the school to deal with suspected cases of child abuse.
- A teacher is appointed with designated special responsibility for handling Child Protection issues.

Our School Policy defines abuse as:

Neglect – the actual or likely 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.

Physical – actual or likely physical injury to a child whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

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 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 – 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.

Implementation of Procedure

Orlagh Uí Dheoráin is the designated Child Protection teacher and the deputy designated teacher is **Rachael Nig Uiginn. Fionnuala Ní Dhuifinn** is the designated teacher in the Naíscoil. The designated Child Protection teacher is the person with special responsibility for dealing with cases of child abuse.

The role of the Designated teacher is:

- To listen to the child;
- To notify the Principal;
- To refer the case to Social Services and/ or Education Welfare Officers
- To support the child;
- To meet with the School Liaison Group-this includes the Social Worker, School Nurse, Health Visitor, Education and Welfare Officer and the Deputy Designated Teacher.

If you have any concerns about your child's safety or about the safety of any child, you can speak to the:

- **Class teacher;**
- **Designated Teacher;**
- **Principal;**
- **Chairperson of the Board of Governors**