

Pastoral Care

The happiness of your child is a priority in St Mary's Primary School. It is important for children to feel secure in the classroom and around the school. The school seeks to develop close links with parents and high priority is given to the care and welfare of our pupils.

Pastoral care involves all pupils and adults within our school and it is our aim to provide a caring and warm environment so that each person involved in school life feels safe and secure.

The pastoral care of our pupils means responding to their needs at a period of their young lives when they are developing physically, emotionally and acquiring a wide range of knowledge and skills.

School policy statements which contribute to pastoral care:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- E-Safety / Mobile Phone Policy
- First Aid / Administration of Medicines Policy
- RSE Policy
- Educational Visits / Risk Assessments

All core policies can be viewed on our school website.

Procedure to follow as a parent if you have a potential child protection concern

I have a concern about a child's safety

I can talk to the class teacher

If I am still concerned, I can speak to:

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection - **Mrs Copeland**

Deputy Teacher for Child Protection - **Miss Mc Crory**

Principal - **Mrs Copeland (Acting)**

If I am still concerned, I can speak / write to the Chair of the Board Of Governors - **Mrs B Leathem**

If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman
Tel: 0800 343 424

At any time, I can speak to the local Children's Services Gateway Team at 02837415285 or the PSNI Central Referral Unit at 02890259299

Information for Parents

Safeguarding and Child Protection



St Mary's Primary School



84 Maghery Road,
Dungannon, BT71 6PA



02838 851778



www.stmaryspsmaghery.co.uk

Aims and Information

A Child Protection Policy is in operation at St Mary's P.S. The aim is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school – teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers – has clear guidance on the direction and interagency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The over-riding concern of all our staff must be the care, welfare and safety of the child.

Safeguarding Team



Designated Teacher
Mrs Copeland



Deputy Designated Teacher
Mrs Black



Principal - **Mrs Copeland (Acting)**



Chair of Board of Governors
Mrs Leathem



Governor for Child Protection
Mrs Breslin

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take any of the following forms:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Sexual
- Exploitation

In cases of suspected abuse, the school will inform the Children's Services Gateway team or the PSNI if appropriate.

It is NOT the responsibility of the school to investigate suspected abuse. Parents should be aware that where there is suspected abuse, the welfare of the child is paramount. In the interest of the child, staff may need to share information with other professionals. However, we will ensure that a proper balance between protecting the rights of the child and respecting the rights and needs of families is maintained. Information will be shared only with those who need to know.

We recognise that very young children and those with Special Needs or disabilities have equal rights to protection. Adults in school, charged with their care, follow the school's Intimate Care Policy and procedures. Copies of this policy and of our Child Protection Policy are available on request.

Preventative Curriculum

All staff in St. Mary's are involved in the development and delivery of our Pastoral Care programme, which includes:

- Providing a range of experiences to support our pupils' personal, social, and emotional development.
- Teaching our children specific strategies to keep themselves safe from harm.
- Involving our children in daily 'healthy living' practices which we hope will influence their whole lives.
- Teaching our children about bullying – its meaning and its consequences and how to deal with bullies.

The principal concern of all the adults in our school is the care, welfare, and safety of our pupils. This is reflected in the aims of our Child Protection Policy:

- To put in place appropriate background checks on all staff and volunteers.
- To ensure that everyone who works in our school knows how to identify signs of abuse and has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.
- To work together with all agencies concerned with the protection of children. To help our pupils learn about the risks of possible abuse,
- To recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and to acquire the confidence and skills to keep themselves safe.