

How St. Francis' keeps your child safe:

- ◆ All staff are trained in Child Protection Procedures.
- ◆ All staff and volunteers are vetted.
- ◆ There is a Safeguarding Team which meets each term.
- ◆ Children are regularly informed of what to do if they are concerned or worried.
- ◆ Personal Development lessons help the children learn how to keep themselves safe.
- ◆ Organisations such as the PSNI and NSPCC deliver programmes on personal safety to our pupils.
- ◆ Visitors to school must wear visitor badges and sign in and out.
- ◆ Exterior doors are locked throughout the day and are supervised in the morning and at home time.
- ◆ All reported allegations of bullying are thoroughly investigated using the NIABF guidelines.

Our School definition of bullying is:

Bullying is when you say or do something hurtful again and again to make another child feel scared, sad, lonely or uncomfortable, and you know that it is wrong.

Useful Contacts

Always talk to **Miss O'Dowd** or the Designated Teacher for Child Protection **Miss Rice** if you have any concerns about safeguarding or child protection. **The following members of the Safeguarding team may also be contacted:**

Miss M T Rice	Vice-Principal
Mr M Lavery	Primary 6 and 7
Mrs C Devine	Primary 4 and 5
Mrs M Bird	Primary 1, 2 and 3
Mrs C Grew	Nursery
Mrs C O'Hagan	Bunscoil N. Proinsias
Mr R Murray	Chair of Governors
Mrs M Heaney	Designated Governor for Child Protection

**St. Francis' P.S. &
Bunscoil Naomh Proinsias
Francis' St.
Lurgan
BT66 6DL
Tel no. 028 38323163**

At any time a parent can talk to a social worker at the
Gateway Team Tel: 028 95985590
or the
PSNI Public Protection Unit Tel : 101

St. Francis' P.S Bunscoil Naomh Proinsias

Keeping Children Safe



A Guide for Parents

In our school we are all friends who play, work and learn together so that St. Francis' will be a memorable stepping stone through life's journey.

Keeping Children Safe

This leaflet will tell you:

- ◆ The five ways in which harm or abuse is defined.
- ◆ What St. Francis' does to protect and keep your child safe from harm or abuse.
- ◆ What you as parents must do to protect your child so that they get the best out of school.
- ◆ Who you can contact for further information about child protection in St Francis'.



Everybody has a responsibility to keep children under 18 years of age safe from harm and abuse. Harm and/or abuse is identified in five ways.

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development.

Physical Abuse is deliberately physically hurting a child.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

Sexual Abuse occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact and non-contact activities.

Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person for personal gain.

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your child safe. You should:

- Talk to the school if you need help or support.
- Feel confident about raising any concerns you have in relation to your child.
- Read our school's **Anti-Bullying, Positive Behaviour, On-Line Safety and Child Protection Policies**. These are available on the school website or in paper form in the office.
- Inform the school if your child has any medical conditions or additional needs.
- Make the school aware of any Court Orders relating to your protection or your child's protection.
- Inform the school if there is any change in your child's circumstances for example; change of address.
- Tell the teacher if there are any changes to arrangements about who brings your child to and collects your child from school.
- Contact the school if your child is absent, then ring or send in a note on the child's return to school. This assures the school that you know about the absence.