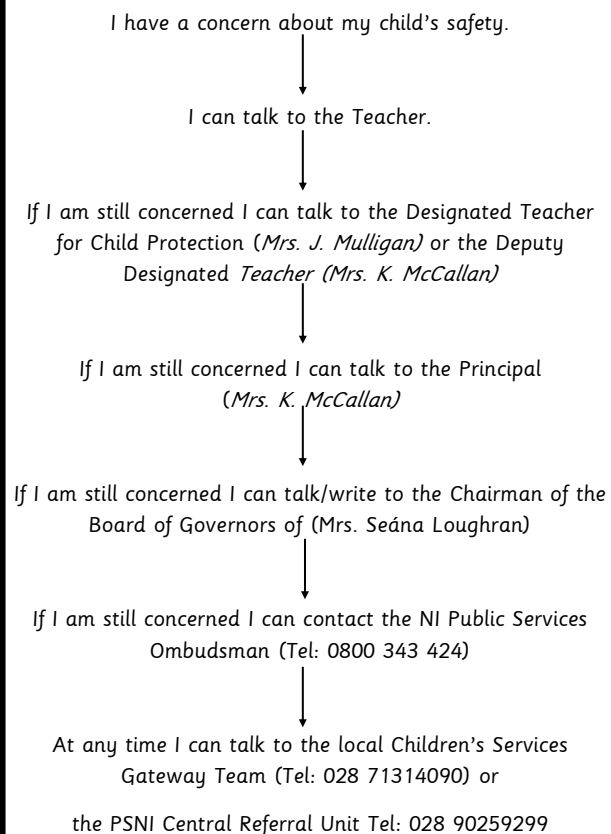


St. Patrick's Primary School, Eskra is committed to the provision of a high quality education for all pupils and high standards to all whom it serves. We believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the Parents/Guardians of our pupils is very important. A close partnership between 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 meetings 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:



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 content of this leaflet or the full policy please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

The following are a list of other related pastoral care policies which are also available from the school.

- Pastoral Care
- Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying
- Use of Reasonable Force/Safe Handling
- Special Educational Needs
- Educational Visits
- First Aid
- The Administration of Medication
- Health and Safety
- Relationships And Sex Education
- Use of Mobile Phones/Cameras
- ICT and Safe Use Of The Internet/E-Safety
- Intimate Care
- Risk Assessments
- Comments/Complaints

Other Useful Contact Numbers  
 School Address: 171, Newtownsaville Road, Eskra,  
 Co. Tyrone. BT78 3JS  
 Tel Number: (028) 82841067  
 E-Mail Address: info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk

Social Services Gateway Team: 028 71314090  
 PSNI Central Referral Unit: 028 90259299  
 or 101 (Ex. 30299)

## PASTORAL CARE



### Child Protection Policy (Summary)

(Information for Parents)

St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra

## Aims

Since the opening of St. Patrick's Primary School in 1963 there has been a strong and sustained tradition of caring for our pupils in the progressive stages of their development. By doing so it is hoped that each child will be assisted to apply himself/herself fully and confidently to the learning process and hence acquire the skills, attitudes, concepts and knowledge necessary for a successful and satisfying school and future life. We aim to further develop 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.

In particular, our staff aim to help pupils to:

- Feel a sense of worth and dignity
- Experience success and achievement
- Develop their talents to the full
- Assume a sense of responsibility towards themselves and others.

The delivery of the Pastoral Care in St. Patrick's is co-ordinated by the Principal and supported by the Vice-Principal.

**General Focus:** This demands a caring commitment by all teachers to guide and advise pupils on both a formal and informal basis on personal, educational and vocational matters.

**Specialised Focus:** This helps ensure that at least one teacher in the school – the Principal – has detailed knowledge of the many individual needs, aspirations, interests and academic progress of each pupil in a particular class and it is hoped that this serves to integrate the work of teachers, parents and others in supporting the learning and development of each pupil.

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.

The school will update the school's Child Protection Policy and procedures in the light of any further guidance and legislation as necessary, and review it annually.

## 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 Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mrs. Seána Loughran)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Mr. Stephen McKenna)

The School Principal (Mrs. Keira McCallan)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs. Josephine Mulligan)

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs. Keira McCallan)

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.

## Procedures

In order to protect our pupils we at St. Patrick's Primary School 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 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
- Access to the school building during the school day is granted by the Principal, secretary or other member of staff after ringing the buzzer at the front door.
- All visitors to the school must report to the Secretary's office.
- 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 an awareness with pupils, staff and parents about bullying, its forms and 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 (the Vice - Principal) is Mrs. Josephine Mulligan and the Deputy, (the Principal) Mrs. Keira McCallan 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 as described in The Department of Education of Northern Ireland publication 'Safeguarding And Child Protection—A guide For Schools (2019).

### **Procedure where the School has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff**

Member of staff completes the Note of Concern on what has been observed or shared and must ACT PROMPTLY.  
Source of concern is notified that the school will follow up appropriately on the issues raised.

Staff member discusses concerns with the Designated Teacher or Deputy Designated Teacher in his/her absence and provides note of concern.

Designated Teacher/ Principal should consult with or other relevant staff before deciding upon action to be taken, always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required, advice may be sought from a CPSS officer.

### **Child Protection referral is required**

Designated Teacher seeks consent of the parent/carer and/or the child (if they are competent to give this) unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm then telephones the Children's Services Gateway Team and/or the PSNI if a child is at immediate risk. He/she submits a completed UNOCINI referral form within 24 hours.

Designated Teacher clarifies/discusses concern with child/ parent/carers and decides if a child protection referral is or is not

Where appropriate the source of the concern will be informed as to the action taken. The Designated Teacher will maintain a written record of all decisions and actions taken and ensure that this record is appropriately and securely

### **Child Protection referral is not required**

School may consider other options including monitoring the situation within an agreed timescale; sign-posting or referring the child, parent/carers to appropriate support services such as the Children's Services Gateway Team or local Family Support Hub with parental consent, and child/young person's consent.