



## Parent Guide to Pastoral Care, Child Protection & Safeguarding

Dear Parents & Guardians,

In Mount St. Michael's Primary School & Nursery Unit we have responsibility for the development, safety and welfare of all the children in our care. We aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment within which each child can flourish. We value everyone for their unique talents and abilities and promote an environment and ethos in which all children can grow in confidence and develop the knowledge, skills and qualities which will enable them to become well-rounded young people with positive attitudes to learning.

This document has been designed to inform you of some aspects of our Pastoral Care and Child Protection Policies and I trust you will find the information useful and look forward to a happy & successful school life in Mount St. Michael's.

Yours faithfully,

*P. Shivers*

**Padraig Shivers**

**Principal**

**Mount St. Michael's Primary School & Nursery Unit**

## **PASTORAL CARE IN MOUNT ST. MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In Mount St. Michael's Primary School, we believe pastoral care to be concerned with the care and development of the whole person. We aim to provide an environment which enriches and compliments the love and care experienced at home. Staff work individually and collectively to encourage the development of skills necessary to deal with the rising pressures of media, family, education and peer pressures which children encounter in their daily lives. We also wish to establish an environment which promotes learning, self-discipline and respect for the feelings of others.

Every member of staff has responsibility for the pastoral care of the children in our school. They have a responsibility to raise any concerns, specific needs or problems of individual children with the pastoral care co-ordinator Mrs Cooley, Mr Lavery (Vice-Principal), Mrs Downey (SENCO) or Mr. P. Shivers (Principal). Parents should inform the school of any upset or change in their child's life which could impact on the way they behave in class or interact with others.

Pastoral care is composed of different policies, programmes and procedures which encourage each individual child to develop to their full potential by catering for their spiritual, moral, emotional, intellectual, physical and social needs in a safe and secure environment.

### **VALUES**

The staff of Mount Saint Michael's Primary School agree that the life and work of our school is permeated by the following core values:

**CARE**

**TRUST**

**HONESTY**

**RESPECT**

**FORGIVENESS**

**INCLUSIVENESS**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We believe that these values should be reflected in relationships within and beyond the school community and should underpin and be evident in all aspects of school life. We aim to work in partnership with parents to nurture and develop these values in our children so enabling them to grow into happy, well rounded young people.

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

We believe that the personal safety of our children is of paramount importance. Our Child Protection Policy sets out clearly defined procedures designed to ensure the personal safety of our children. We are committed to always acting on behalf of and in the best interests of children and are aware of the unique position of trust which we hold and of the necessity to act appropriately.

## Categories of Abuse

Abuse may take a number of forms as defined by (Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland DHSSPS 2016), including:

**Neglect:** 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:** Physical abuse is deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others.

**Emotional Abuse:** 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.

**Exploitation:** Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain.

If at any time, a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff that gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, the member of staff will act promptly, and the following process will be applied:

1. He / she will speak initially to the Designated Teacher who will discuss any concerns with the Deputy Designated Teacher.
2. The school may seek advice from:
  - Social Services
  - Child Protection Support Services for Schools (CPSS)
3. Parents will be kept informed in line with statutory requirements.
4. Where a disclosure is made, the school is legally obliged to refer the matter to Social Services or Care Unit (PSNI)

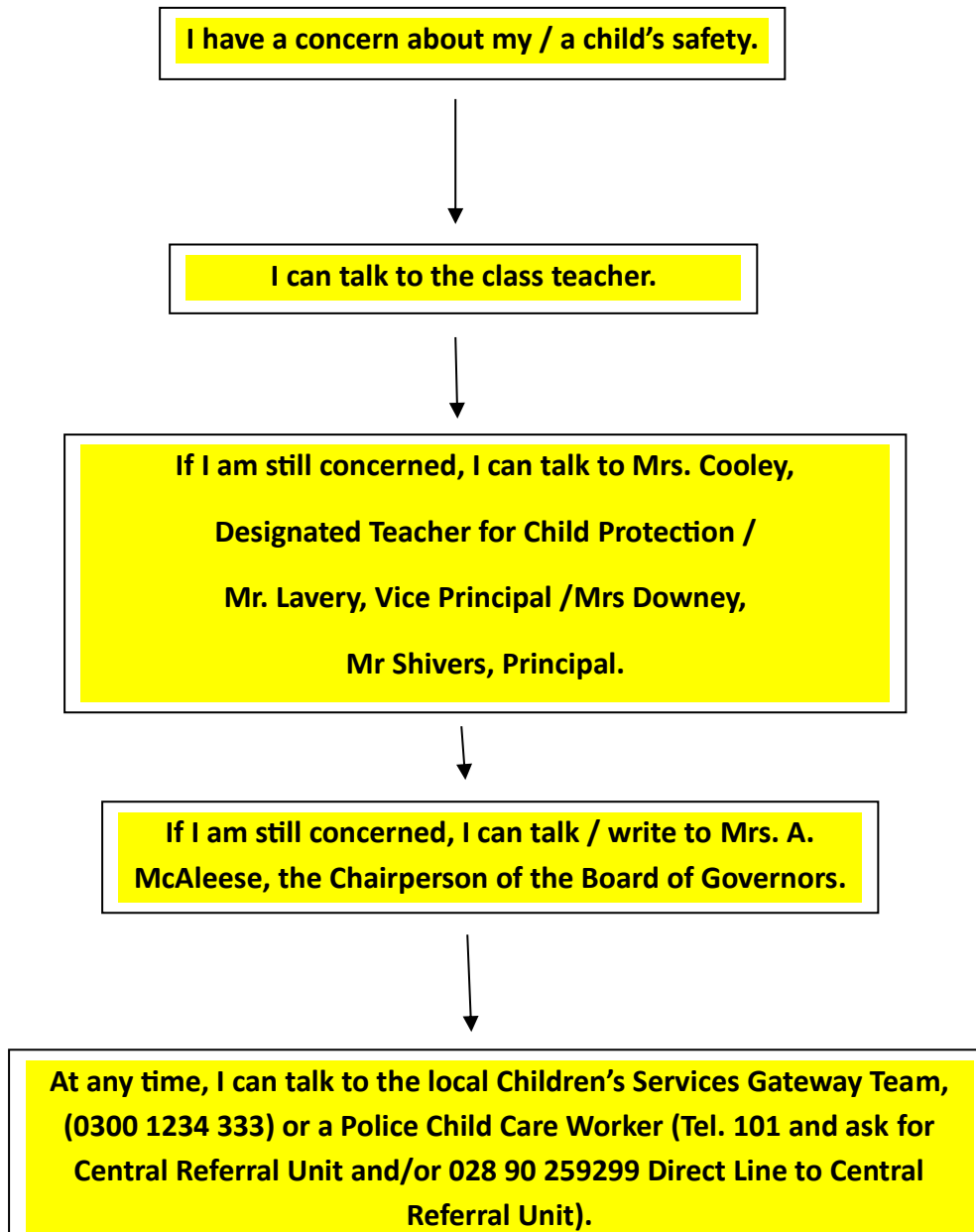
Our Child Protection procedures have been agreed to ensure that all those who work in our school have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is either suspected or reported. The following flow chart outlines how a complaint about possible child abuse can be made:

**MOUNT ST. MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT**

**PASTORAL CARE – CHILD PROTECTION**

Designated Teacher: Mrs. S. Cooley  
Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs. C. Downey  
Deputy Designated Teacher: Mr. P. Lavery  
Deputy Designated Teacher: Miss. R. Binding

If you have a Child Protection concern, please following the flowchart below:



**[A detailed policy document is available on request from the school office.](#)**