



**St Patrick's Primary School**

**The Loup**

**PASTORAL CARE**

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

**CHILD PROTECTION - SUMMARY**

Since the opening of the school in 1970 there has been a strong and sustained tradition of caring for our pupils in the progressive stages of their academic, spiritual, personal and social development. By doing so we hope to assist each individual 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.

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 pastoral care is co-ordinated by a Pastoral Team, led by the Principal, Mr S Scullion. The Vice Principal, Mrs Young is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, and in her absence, Mrs Sheehy.**

A Child Protection Policy operates in St Patrick's Primary School, Loup.

We aim to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school (teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers) has clear guidance on the detection and inter – agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care and welfare of each child, which is our paramount consideration.

**In all their contact with pupils, staff in St Patrick's follow the guidelines and procedures described in the DENI publication 'Pastoral Care in School – Child Protection' (1999). Updated 2003/13 Welfare and Protection for Pupils.**

## **Principles**

**The following principles form the basis for our Child Protection Policy:**

- children should be listened to and taken seriously;
- in any incident the child's welfare must always be paramount: this overrides all other considerations;
- a proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the child's interests must always come first;
- children with disabilities are children first and have equal rights to protection. However, they may have particular needs which require specialist attention.

In particular, the central principle our staff support is that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and to have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well being.

**In all cases of suspected child abuse, the action that will be taken in St Patrick's is that of informing Social Services, the EA, Southern Region and CCMS. The school will not be involved in investigating the suspected abuse (see fig 1).**

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 Pastoral Team in St Patrick's PS, Loup 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.

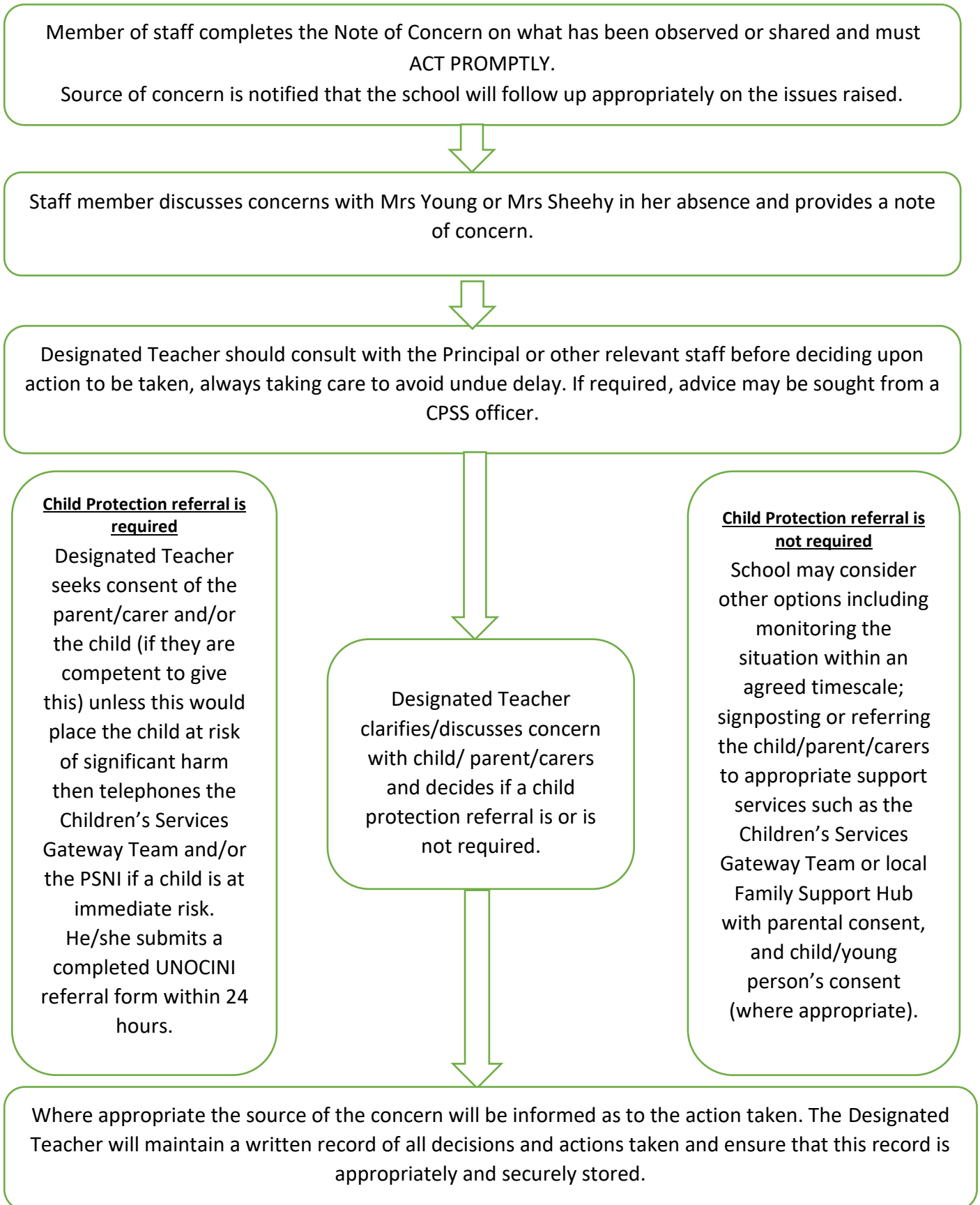
This leaflet is intended as a summary of our Child Protection Policy. All policy statements are available on request from the Secretary's Office.

A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our young people learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment.

**Together** we can ensure that the best interests of your child remain a primary consideration.

**Figure 1**

**Procedure where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school's staff:**



**How a parent can make a complaint:**

