

Parent Referral

As a parent, you have the right to initiate a referral if you have any concerns regarding your child's safety.

The procedure is as follows:

I have a concern about my/a child's safety



I can talk to the class teacher



If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mr Robinson (Designated Teacher)/
Mrs K Madine Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection



If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal, Mrs Prenter



If I am still concerned, I can write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr C Bowd

REMEMBER

The welfare of the child is paramount

At any time I can talk to a Social Worker on
Tel:028 44613511
or PSNI Welfare Officer Tel:028 97511295

Our Lady and St Patrick Primary School



PROTECTING CHILDREN

An Information Resource for parents on Child Protection

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

All schools are now required to inform parents of their child protection procedures.

All staff, both teaching and support, have received training in this area.

Mr Robinson and **Mrs K Madine** are the school's designated teachers.

Definition

The following is an extract from "Co-operating to protect Children" (Children (NI) order 1995 Vol.6) and clearly defines the categories of abuse.

"Children may be abused by a parent, a sibling or other relative, a carer (i.e. foster parent or staff member in a residential home), an acquaintance or a stranger, who may be an adult or a young person. The abuse may be the result of a deliberate act or of a failure on the part of a parent or carer to act or to provide proper care, or both".

The abuse may take a number of forms including:-

Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, exploitation.

Aims

Child protection procedures aim to:-

- protect all children from all possible kinds of abuse in any setting
- give clear instructions for action to anyone involved in the care of children, if they suspect that a child is at risk
- support those involved in working with children by providing an understanding of their different roles and promoting co-ordination between them

Referral Process

In the instance of a case of child abuse, our school will comply with the referral procedures as recommended by Education Authority / CCMS.

Mr Robinson and **Mrs K Madine**, as designated teachers, will manage the implementation of procedures.

Class teacher suspects abuse or neglect



Class teacher reports to Designated Teacher



Designated teacher meets with Principal to plan course of action and ensures that a written report is made



Designated Teacher makes referral to:

- Social Services
- CCMS
- Education Authority Designated Officer

Social Services

The statutory responsibility for protecting children lies with Social Services and they will:

- talk to Designated Teacher/Class Teacher/Principal
- decide how the case should proceed
- investigate and assess the degree of risk
- invite a representative from school to attend case conference
- inform parents and school of the protection plan, when agreed