

Child Protection Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our school. Our children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school.
- 1.2 In Knocknagoney Primary School we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.
- 1.3 Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to them.

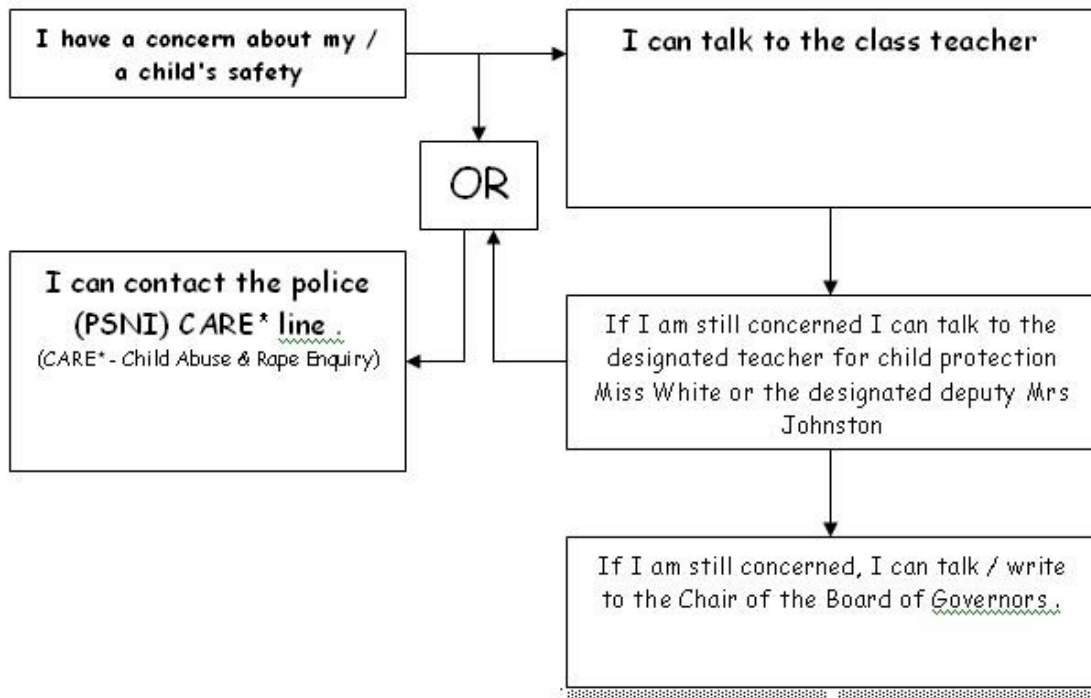
2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 This policy ensures that all staff in our school are clear about the actions necessary with regard to a child protection issue. Its aims are:
 - to raise the awareness of all staff and identify responsibility in reporting possible cases of abuse;
 - to ensure effective communication between all staff when dealing with child protection issues;
 - to lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

3 Procedures

- 3.1 There is a designated person in our school who is the child protection co-ordinator. This is the Principal, Miss White with Mrs Johnston as the deputy designated person. Any parent may use the following

procedure to make a complaint if they have any concerns about the safety of their (or another) child at the school.



- 3.2 If any teacher suspects that a child in his/her class may be a victim of abuse, they immediately inform the designated person about their concerns. Abuse can be of a sexual, emotional or physical nature. It can also be the result of neglect.
- 3.3 Any action that the named person takes when dealing with an issue of child protection must be in line with the procedures outlined in the Department of Education Child Protection¹ guidelines.
- 3.4 The school's designated teacher works closely with the Social Services department and any other relevant and authorised agency when investigating any allegations of abuse. All parties involved handle such investigations in a sensitive and confidential manner, but the interest of the child is of paramount importance. The following principles will apply

¹ Pastoral Care in School - **CHILD PROTECTION**, DENI, available at www.deni.gov.uk or from The Stationary Office. The document is also available for reference from the school.

- The Principal will liaise with Social services or the board's Child Protection Unit to determine if a referral is necessary.
 - The complainant will be informed of the outcome.
 - If the parent is not the alleged abuser then they will be informed.
 - If the parent is the alleged abuser then discussions will follow with Social Services and the Police to determine how the parent will be informed. The Principal is generally not involved at this stage.
- 3.5** If a child alleges abuse in the form of a disclosure then the school is under a legal obligation to contact social services following the guidelines laid down by the Department of Education. (See 3.3)
- 3.6** Staff will work closely with statutory agencies and will attend case conferences as required. The case conference offers the opportunity to share information and formulate a plan of action. Staff are expected to attend and participate in all case conferences and meetings held under statutory guidelines.
- 3.7** We regard all information relating to individual child protection issues as confidential, and we treat this accordingly. We only pass information on to appropriate persons. Any records kept at the school are stored in a non-alphabetical storage system and as such are exempt from Data Protection requirements.
- 3.8** We require all adults employed in school to have their application vetted through police records in order to ensure that there is no evidence of offences involving children or abuse. This also applies to volunteer helpers.
- 3.9** There may be times when adults in our school, in the course of their duty, use physical intervention to restrain children. The Principal requires the adult involved in any such incident to report this to him immediately and to make a written report to be kept in school.
- 3.10** All adults in the school receive regular training to raise their awareness of abuse and their knowledge of agreed local child protection procedures. All adults should be aware of this policy on child protection

4 Monitoring and review

- 4.1** The governing body regularly reviews any incidents detailed by the Principal. A named governor participates in the school's training with regard to the child protection procedures. The governing body reviews this policy annually.