

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL DUNDRUM



Child Protection Policy Summary 16/17

Abbreviated version for parents/carers

Full policy available on request in school

Child Protection

In Sacred Heart Primary School, the Designated Teacher is Mrs Mc Polin. The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mr Austin. Our role is to consider issues and discuss with staff/parents as appropriate.

We recognise that our pupils have a fundamental right to be protected from harm i.e. all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse by those looking after them.

Aims

Child protection aims to;

- ❖ Protect all children from all 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 all those involved in working with children by providing understanding of their different roles and promoting co-ordination between them.

Identifying Abuse

All school staff, teaching and non-teaching, are aware of their legal responsibility to inform the Principal or Designated Teacher of any suspicion they may have regarding the abuse of a child.

Children

Children will be advised on whom to talk to if worried – this includes class teacher, Mr Austin, Mrs McPolin, assistants and yard supervisors, and of course parents/carers, who in turn tell us so we can take appropriate action.

Referral Process

In the case of child abuse, our school will comply with the referral procedures as recommended by the South Eastern Education & Library Board/CCMS.

1. Teacher/non-teacher suspects abuse or neglect.
2. Teacher/non-teacher reports to Designated Teacher or Principal.
3. The Designated Teacher or Principal plans a course of action and ensures that a written record is made.

The Designated Teacher or Principal makes a referral to:

- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ CCMS
- ❖ SEELB designated officers

Social Services

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

- ❖ Speak to the Designated Teacher or Principal
- ❖ Decide how the case should proceed
- ❖ Investigate and assess the degree of risk
- ❖ Inform parents/carers and the school of the protection plan

Referral Process

As a parent/carer you have the right to initiate a referral if you have any concerns regarding a child's safety and well-being. The procedure is as follows:

Stage 1:

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

Stage 2:

I can talk to the class teacher

Stage 3:

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for child protection Mrs Mc Polin or Deputy Designated Teacher Mr Austin

Stage 4:

If I am still concerned I can talk or write to the Chair of Governors or CCMS (160 High St, Hollywood ,Co Down)

At any time I can talk to Newcastle Gateway Service or a Social Worker:

Newcastle Community Services

22 Park Avenue

Newcastle

Co Down

BT33 0DY

Tel: 028 4372 3346

or

the PSNI

If a complaint about possible abuse is made against a member of staff, it should be referred directly to the Principal by the person to whom it was made. The Principal will initiate the record of complaint; consult with CCMS, Welfare Dept of SEELB and the Chair of the Board of Governors to decide on a course of action.

When a member of staff receives a complaint concerning the Principal, the Chair of the Board of Governors is contacted in the first instance who will then consult with the employing authority and consider an appropriate course of action.

Other useful phone numbers.....

- NSPCC 028 9035 1135
- NI Childline 028 9032 7773
- Barnardo's 028 9067 2366
- Children's Law Centre 028 9024 5704
- Parent's Advice Centre 028 9031 0891 or Free phone 0808 8010 722