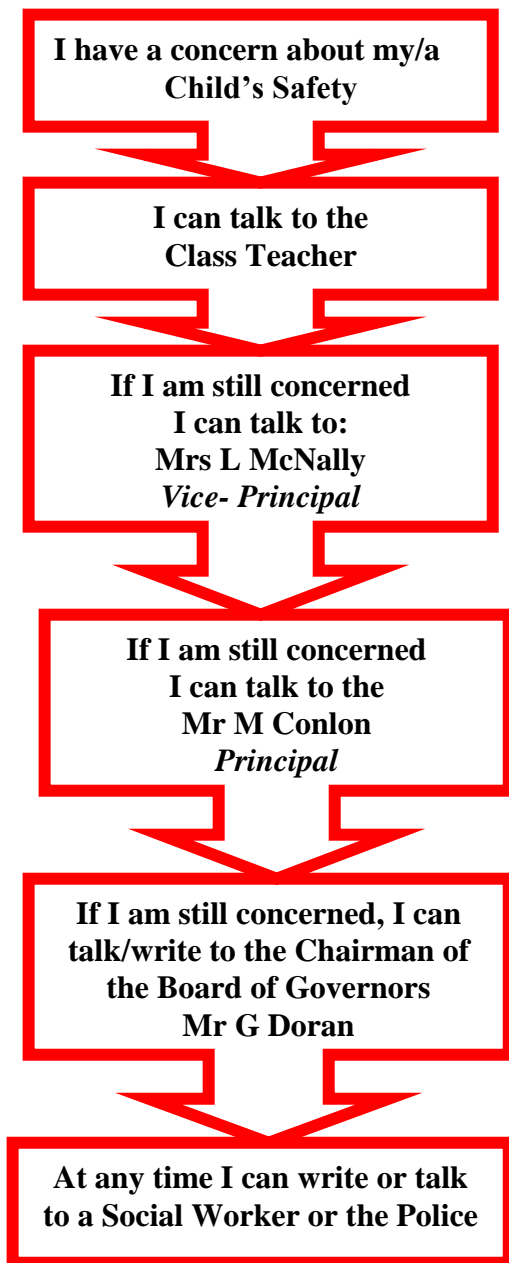


HOW A PARENT CAN EXPRESS CONCERN



GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE SCHOOL

By Letter

*The Principal
St Brigid's Primary school
Castle Street
Ballymoney
BT53 6JX*

By Telephone

028 276 62664



A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



CHILD PROTECTION

SCHOOL POLICY

Five key elements:

- Providing a caring, supportive and safe environment in which children can learn and develop
- Developing and implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases or suspected cases, of abuse
- Ensuring we practise safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe
- Supporting pupils who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed protection plan

A detailed policy document is available on request from the school office.

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse occurs when ‘a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care.

Children may be abused in many settings, in a family, in an institution or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger.’ (*Northern Area Child Protection Committees: Regional Policy & Procedures*)

- **Neglect:**
Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm.
- **Physical Abuse:**
Physical abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering.
- **Sexual Abuse:**
Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities.
- **Emotional Abuse:**
Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development.

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:

He / she will speak initially to
Mrs L McNally
(Designated Teacher)

who will discuss any concerns with
Mr M Conlon
(Principal / Deputy Designated Officer)

The school may seek advice from:

- Social Services
- Child Protection Support Services for Schools (CPSS)

Parents will be kept informed in line with statutory requirements.

- *Where a disclosure is made, the school is legally obliged to refer the matter to Social Services or Care Unit (PSNI)*

REPORTING PROCEDURES