

Child Protection and the Curriculum

In St Patrick's we believe that the welfare of the child is paramount and that all children have the right to be educated in a safe and caring environment. We also aim to empower our pupils to help them to deal with any situation in which their own safety or welfare, or the safety and welfare of other children, may be compromised. Throughout the school year we employ a number of strategies to do this:-

Every year we have anti-bullying week, where we have assemblies or presentations to focus on this theme.

Many outside agencies, such as Childline, Fixing Thing Project and NSPCC come into school to provide assemblies and workshops on many pastoral issues including bullying and abuse.

All P4-P7 classes have class prefects who are responsible and approachable members of each class.

Our School Council, where each year group from P.4-P.7 elects 2 council members to represent their class, and a corresponding infant class, deals with issues forwarded by the pupils through a suggestion box.

Photographs of our School Councillors are displayed prominently throughout the school so that all the children are familiar with them.

The photographs of the Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers are also displayed in the entrance hall.

The children are reminded regularly in the classroom and at assembly, to speak with the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher, or any member of staff, if they have a concern about their own, or the welfare and safety of another child.

In all their contact with pupils, all staff in St Patrick's P.S. will follow the guidelines and procedures outlined in the DENI publication, "Pastoral Care in Schools" - (1999)

For more detailed information, please request a copy of our Child Protection Policy from the School Office.

School phone no. 02830263466

**Email:
info@stpatricks.newry.ni.sch.uk**

Child Protection Policy



Saint Patrick's Nursery & Primary School

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

An Information Guide for Parents and Guardians

*"The welfare of the
child must be the
paramount
consideration."*

*Child Protection Order
1995*

St Patrick's is fully committed to the care and protection of all the children in its care. Everyone employed in St Patrick's has a responsibility in relation to child protection. In day-to-day contact with the children, our Safeguarding Team may have the opportunity to note concerns and meet with parents and other associated adults, where this is appropriate.

Aims

We aim to:-

Value, respect and nurture every child in our care.

Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated.

Help our pupils to develop a positive, attitude towards life, a healthy self love and respect of others.

Raise awareness of individual responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse.

Designated Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher - Mrs Lisa Doyle
Deputy Des. Teachers - Mr Ruddy, Ms Martina Rooney (Nursery), Mrs Sinead McShane

Principal - Mrs Orla Gorman

Chairperson of Board of Governors

Mrs Karen McNally

Child Protection Governor - Mr Ciaran Mackin

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is any form of physical, sexual or emotional mistreatment, neglect or lack of care, that leads to injury or an abuse of power or breach of trust.

Who is an Abuser?

A child may be abused by a parent, a sibling or other relative, a carer (i.e. a person who, while not a parent, has actual custody of the child, such as a foster parent), a teacher or staff member in a residential home, another (older) child, an acquaintance or a stranger.

Role of the Designated Teacher

To make all members of staff, parents and guardians aware of the procedures in school to deal with suspected cases of child abuse.

To be a point of contact for all children in the school who may have any worries or concerns.

To be a point of contact for any parents, or other adults within the school family, who may have child protection concerns regarding a child in our school.

To inform staff and parents of the signs or symptoms which may indicate possible abuse.

The designated teacher, or in her absence, the deputy designated teacher will be the person with responsibility for dealing with cases of abuse.

If, after discussion with the Principal, there is still cause for concern, the designated teacher will seek advice from the EA's Designated Officer for Child Protection and/ or the Duty Social Worker. If a referral is agreed, this will be made in writing to both.

Where physical or sexual abuse is alleged or suspected, the designated teacher will also contact the PSNI.

At no time will the school be involved in investigating abuse. The role of the school is to inform the relevant outside agencies of its suspicions.

The purpose of these procedures is to protect vulnerable children. Often teachers or other members of staff may feel that reporting alleged abuse may be disloyal to the child or may damage our relationship with parents. In spite of this, it must be remembered that a teacher's first and foremost obligation is to the child.

All teaching and non-teaching members of staff have been trained to recognize both physical and behavioural indicators of possible abuse - these indicators are listed in full in our Child Protection Policy.

All volunteers, coaches and tutors working in our school are vetted prior to beginning their work with the children. Copies of their vetting certificates are retained by the Principal.