

Pupil/Teacher Reporting a Safeguarding Incident

Child makes a disclosure or teacher has concerns regarding abuse or neglect



Matter is referred to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection - Mrs O` Connor



Principal informed by Designated Teacher. Plan of action agreed. Referrer advised of plan



No referral to Social Services/Parents or Carers informed of concerns



Referral to Social Services



School will continue to support and monitor pupil/s as appropriate.

Representative from school will work with other services as part of the safeguarding plan.

This leaflet is intended only as a summary of the main aspects of the School's Child Protection Policy. The full policy document can be obtained from the School Office/School website



<https://www.holychildps.co.uk>

How a Parent can raise a concern

If a parent has a potential child protection concern:

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 the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Principal



If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chair of Board of Governors



If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman
Tel: 0800 343 424



At anytime I can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team on 028 71314090

or

The PSNI Central Referral Unit on
028 9025 9299



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY and PROCEDURES

We in Holy Child Primary and Nursery School have a responsibility for the safeguarding and child protection of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential

You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated

(Article 39, UNCRC)



Holy Child Safeguarding Team

Mrs O` Connor

Mrs Nelson

Mrs Concannon



DT
Designated
Teacher
Safeguarding &
Child Protection

DDT
Deputy Designated
Teacher
Safeguarding & Child
Protection

DDT
Deputy Designated
Teacher
& Principal

You can also talk to...

Governor Representative: Mrs Linda Kelly
Chair of the Board of Governors: Mr Eugene Dunn

Introduction

Child Protection is concerned with the provision of a suitable environment for children to develop and mature, safe, as far as possible, from psychological or physical harm.

All members of staff have a duty to help protect children from abuse or the risk of abuse and must be aware of correct procedures to safeguard all those in our care.

Staff see children on a day to day basis over long periods of time and are in a unique position to be able to notice physical and behavioural indicators which may be evidence of abuse. We aim to work closely with parents/guardians in supporting safeguarding any concerns raised in a professional manner.

Guiding Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount at all times.
- Every child has a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- The right to confidentiality for parents, carers, members of staff and students will be respected in so far as legal requirements permit.
- Employees and all working with students in Holy Child PS are subject to Enhanced Disclosure Checks by Access NI.

Designated Teacher

Any member of staff who knows or suspects that a child is being harmed or at risk of being harmed has a duty to convey his/her concern to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection or to the Principal.

Responsibility to report

Any member of staff who knows or suspects that a pupil is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed, has a duty to convey his/her concern to the Designated Teacher or Principal. Every possible care is taken to minimise the possibility of mistaken referrals but this cannot be guaranteed. The consequences of not reporting suspicions if a child has been abused could be far more serious than making a report which proves to be unfounded.

Categories of Abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Exploitation- Child Sexual Exploitation

Signs and Symptoms of Abuse

Detection of abuse is seldom straightforward. None of the indicators, either singly, or in any combination, prove conclusively that a child has been abused.

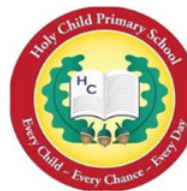
Physical Abuse: Unexplained marks/injuries; scratches, human bite marks or welts, bruises, burns, untreated injuries; chronic runaway; self mutilation tendencies; aggressive or withdrawn, fear of returning home.

Neglect: Medical/physical/special needs of a child not being met; looks very thin, poorly, sad, constant hunger; steals food; lack of energy; constant tiredness; poor hygiene; inappropriate dress; frequent absenteeism; low self-esteem; repeated accidents.

Emotional Abuse: Sudden speech disorders; wetting and soiling; signs of mutilation; frequent vomiting; poor peer relationships; attention seeking/needing behaviour; fear of change.

Sexual Abuse: Soreness or bleeding in the genital or anal areas; itching in genital areas; stained or bloody underwear, bruises on inner thighs or buttocks; pain on urination; difficulty walking or sitting; eating disorders; low self esteem; association with older people, outside the usual range of contacts; inappropriate language; sexual knowledge for age group

Child Sexual Exploitation: is a form of sexual abuse, where young people are exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliation and degrading sexual assaults. Child Sexual Exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.



Role of Members of Staff

In the event that a staff member becomes aware or suspects that a child is a victim of child abuse it is important that the response is sensitive and appropriate.

In all cases, staff will act promptly, bringing concerns to the attention of the Designated Teacher or Deputy Designated Teacher/s.

In cases where a child makes a disclosure, staff will:

- Listen to what the child says without showing or expressing shock.
- Allow the pupil to tell what happened in her own words without interrupting or interrogating her.
- Reassure the child that what she has said has been understood and that her interests are paramount.
- Explain the obligation to refer the matter, in order to seek help for the child.
- Not give a guarantee of confidentiality.
- Make written notes at the earliest opportunity but not as the pupil talks. Staff will try to write down the actual words used.
- Keep notes factual and securely stored.
- Refer the matter to the Designated Teacher as a matter of urgency.

Who Needs To Know?

It is not always possible to provide teachers with the full details of a child's circumstances. Information is shared in the interest of the pupil's welfare but this is balanced against pupil and parental rights to confidentiality.

Parents will be kept informed of who is notified within school and other agencies, unless doing so would place the child at further risk.

Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously (Article 12 UNCRC)

