

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS TO FOLLOW

If you have concerns about your child's welfare, what should you do?

- Contact your child's teacher first of all;
- If the issue has not been resolved, please make arrangements to contact Mrs Flanagan;
- If you are still not happy with the outcome, you should contact the school Principal, Mr O'Hagan;
- Should that fail to satisfy, please contact the Chair of Governor's via the school.

A copy of the school's Child Protection Policy is available to download at the following web address:

<http://www.stmarysbanbridge.com>

At any time, you can contact a social worker at the;

Children's Social Work Gateway Service - 08007837745

**Lisa Flanagan- Designated Child Protection Officer -
028 40662572**

Canon Stevenson - Chair of Governors- 028 40662136

Des O'Hagan - School Principal - 028 40662572

Help lines

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0800800500

NI Childline Tel: 028 9032 7773

Childline UK Tel: 08001111

St. Mary's Primary School Banbridge



Child Protection & Safeguarding A Summary Guide For Parents

CHILD PROTECTION

We in St. Mary's Primary School and Playgroup have a fundamental responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge and we aim to provide a caring, spiritual and safe environment for all pupils.

The United Nations Convention on the rights of the child states:

"Children have the right to be protected from 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; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by those looking after them."

The following approaches have been put in place to ensure the protection of all children. Staff are aware of these.

- All members of staff, trainees and school volunteers have been properly vetted before being engaged.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff are familiar with the Child Protection Policy and school procedures regarding protection issues.
- The designated teacher is Mrs Flanagan. The deputy designated teacher is Mr O'Hagan.
- The school's Child Protection Policy is available from the office for any parent wishing to seek further information.
- The school building and grounds are monitored by 24 hr CCTV and all doors operate via a Security System.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SCHOOL

If we have concerns about the welfare of your child, what are we required to do?

- In the majority of cases, we will ask to meet with you first to discuss our concerns;
- If the issue has not been resolved, we are obliged to consult with the appropriate agency;
- If we are advised to make a referral to Social Services, we must follow that advice;
- We will endeavour at all times to keep you informed.

The designated teacher is a senior member of staff who is responsible for liaising with:

- Trust Child Care Services and other relevant agencies;
- Individual cases of suspected child abuse, or;
- Where more general concerns exist about a child.

In St. Mary's School, child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works within the school and all staff recognise that certain forms of abuse are a criminal offence.