How Can a Parent/Carer Raise a Safeguarding Concern?

I have a concern about my/a Child's Safety

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I can talk to the class teacher in school

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If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs L Tisdal) or Deputy (Mr Andrews/Mrs Morgan-Douds)

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If I am still concerned I can talk to the Principal (Mrs A Wilson)

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If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chairperson of BOG—(Mr Patterson

At anytime, I can talk to a social worker at the Gateway Services. Contact Numbers Overleaf.

- Details of procedures where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school staff are n the full policy document.
- A copy of the school's child protection arrangements will be maintained and circulated to parents every two years. The policy document will also be accessible within school and copies provided given 24 hrs notice.

Useful Telephone Numbers and Contacts

Mr I Patterson
Chairperson of Board of Governors

Mrs B Dillon
Designated Governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection

Single Contact for Children's Services Referral:

Gateway: 110 Saintfield Rd, Belfast BT8 6HD
028 9050 7000

Out of Hours Emergency (social services)
02895049999
(after 5:00 pm each evening at weekends, and public/bank holidays)

NSPCC 08088005000
Childline 08001111

REMEMBER if you have ANY issues regarding child protection or have concerns regarding the safety or well being of any child in our school DO NOT hesitate to contact: Mrs Tisdall, Mrs Morgan-Douds or Mr Andrews

THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE

Taughmonagh Primary School
Belfast, BT9 6QL
Tel; 028 90669698

Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery unit

Child Protection Information

Principal—Mrs A Wilson

2026/2027

Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility

Taughmonagh PS and NU

Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs L Tisdall

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mr J Andrews

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection—Nursery
Mrs M Morgan-Douds

Introduction

This guide provides a summary of our child protection policy. The full policy document is available on request from the school office.

- All adults – teaching staff, support staff and volunteers in Taughomonagh Primary School accept that they have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of our pupils.
- No concern about the welfare of any child will be ignored by staff in Taughmonagh Primary School Children's safety and feeling secure and happy in their environment is of paramount importance and it is embedded in the ethos of our school.
- Taughmonagh Primary School recognises the importance of a partnership between home and school but where issues of child abuse or suspected child abuse arise, our first and only responsibility is to the child.
- As part of our ongoing work in the area of Child Protection we will endeavour to raise children's awareness about themselves and to develop a trusting climate in which our children feel able to talk and share their thoughts and feelings.

THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM AT Taughmonagh Primary School

Chair of Governors: Mr I Patterson

Principal: Mrs A Wilson

Designated Governor for Child Protection: Mrs B Dillon

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mrs L Tisdall

Deputy Designated Teacher Mr J Andrews/Miss Morgan-Douds

Members of the team have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of pupils within the school and these are detailed in our full child protection policy.

What is Child Abuse?

Definition of Abuse

'Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them….' SBNI Policy and Procedures

Categories of Child Abuse

Physical Abuse is deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

Sexual Abuse occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving a child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying – including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones – by a child's peers.

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. Children who are neglected often also suffer from other types of abuse.

Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking. It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can be sexual in nature. **"Co-operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in N.I." (DOH 2017)**

Procedures

All staff at Taughmonagh Primary School will ensure that all children are aware of who can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns.

The Department of Education of Northern Ireland requires all those working in education to cooperate fully with Social Services and other agencies to protect children. It is therefore our duty to refer if there is a concern about any form of abuse. The following diagram shows the procedures we are required to follow as described in The Department of Education for Northern Ireland publication Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools: A Guide for Schools (updated 2018)

Disclosures/Concerns Regarding Abuse or Neglect

Member of staff completes note of concern on what has been shared or observed and must **ACT IMMEDIATELY (written record to be kept**

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Staff member discusses concern with Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs L Tisdall) or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Miss O'Kane./Miss Morgan)

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Principal (Mrs A Wilson) informed. Plan of Action agreed and referral decision taken

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School will continue to support the pupil as appropriate

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.