

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Saint Francis of Assisi Primary School  
Madden Row  
Keady  
BT60 3RW  
Phone: 02837 531284

## CHILD PROTECTION AIMS AND INFORMATION

A Child Protection Policy is in operation at St Francis of Assisi P.S. The aim is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school, teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers have clear guidance on the direction and interagency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all our staff must be the care, welfare and safety of the child.

## OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

		
Principal Mrs F Hughes	Designated Teacher Mrs M O Malley	Deputy- Designated Teacher Mrs S Toal

	
Chair of Governors Mr S Murray	Designated Governor Mrs L McAleavey

## CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse can take any of the following forms:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Sexual Exploitation

In cases of suspected abuse, the school will inform Social Services, EA and CCMS.

It is NOT the responsibility of the school to investigate suspected abuse. Parents should be aware that where there is suspected abuse, the welfare of the child is paramount. In the interest of the child, staff may need to share information with other professionals. However, we will ensure that a proper balance between protecting the rights of the child and respecting the rights and needs of families is maintained. Information will be shared only with those who need to know.

We recognise that very young children and those with Special Needs or disabilities have equal rights to protection. Adults in school, charged with their care, follow the school's Intimate Care Policy and procedures. Copies of this policy and of our Child Protection Policy are available on request.

## PASTORAL CARE

The happiness of your child is a priority in St Francis of Assisi P.S. It is important for children to feel secure in the classroom and around school. The school seeks to develop close links with parents and high priority is given to the care and welfare of our pupils.

Pastoral Care involves all pupils and adults within our school, and it is our aim to provide a caring and warm environment so that each person involved in school life feels safe and secure.

The pastoral care of our pupils means responding to their needs at a period of their young lives when they are developing physically, emotionally and acquiring a wide range of knowledge and skills.

School policy statements which contribute to Pastoral Care:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Positive Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- Intimate Care
- Special Educational Needs
- Health and Safety
- E-Safety / Mobile Phone
- First Aid /Administration of Medicines
- Relationships and Sexual Education
- Attendance
- Safe Handling

All staff in St. Francis of Assisi are involved in the development and delivery of our Pastoral Care programme, which includes:

- Providing a range of experiences to support our pupils’ personal, social and emotional development.
- Teaching our children specific strategies to keep themselves safe from harm.
- Involving our children in daily ‘healthy living’ practices which we hope will influence their whole lives.
- Teaching our children about bullying — its meaning and its consequences and how to deal with bullies.

The principal concern of all the adults in our school is the care, welfare and safety of our pupils. This is reflected in the aims of our Child Protection Policy:

To put in place appropriate background checks on all staff and volunteers.

- To ensure that everyone who works in our school knows how to identify signs of abuse and has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.
- To work together with all agencies concerned with the protection of children.
- To help our pupils learn about the risks of possible abuse,
- To recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and to acquire the confidence and skills to keep themselves safe.
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PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IF YOU HAVE A CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN	
<b>I have a concern about my or a child’s safety</b>	
<b>1</b>	I can talk to the class teacher
<b>2</b>	If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teachers for Child Protection – <b>Mrs Maria O Malley</b> or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection <b>Mrs Sinéad Toal</b>
<b>3</b>	If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal - <b>Mrs Feena Hughes</b>
<b>4</b>	If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chair of the Board of Governors – <b>Mr Seamus Murray</b>
<b>5</b>	At anytime, I can talk to a Social Worker: <b>Children’s Services Gateway Team Tel: 02837567100 or Gateway’s Out of Hours Regional Emergency Social Work Service Tel: 0800 1979995 (after 5:00 pm each evening at weekends &amp; public/bank holidays). For PSNI Central Referral Unit Non-Emergency Tel: 101 or Email: <a href="mailto:cru@psni.police.uk">cru@psni.police.uk</a></b>

**Procedures where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school staff are detailed on page 45 in the Child Protection Policy document under Parent Tab – ‘Policies’ on the school website.**