

LOUGHRIES INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
PARENTS INFORMATION

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child lists a number of statements setting out the rights which all children and young people should have, no matter where they live or what their circumstances are. The Convention provides that children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, that they must be kept safe from harm and that they must be given proper care by those looking after them. It is recognised that teachers and others who work in schools spend a considerable time interacting with children and may play an important role in identifying potential cases of abuse. All schools must, by law, have a Designated Teacher for Child Protection who may liaise with other staff and Social Services. At Loughries Primary School, the **Designated Teacher is Miss Miller**. Should she be unavailable, **Mrs Thompson** the **Deputy Designated Teacher** will fulfil this role.

Loughries Integrated Primary School has strong home school links and is grateful for those links. However, with child abuse, or suspicion of it, our first and only responsibility must be the child. Due to NI Child Care Legislation, we are duty bound to comply with specific Child Protection requirements. All staff are fully aware of their pastoral responsibilities and are alerted to the possible signs of abuse - sexual, neglect, physical and emotional. No promise of confidentiality can be given where abuse has been alleged. All teachers try to ensure that children keep safe, remain healthy and when making decisions which affect children their best interests will be foremost. The school has Child Protection and Pastoral Care Policies which set out specific procedures. These procedures are set out in DENI Circular 1999.10. Consequently, we may contact external agencies and / or make referral to external agencies without consulting parents. Although domestic violence is not one of the four main categories of abuse if the school becomes aware of domestic violence then the school must make Social Services aware of this.

This Policy is just one of a number of Policies under the umbrella of "Pastoral Care" that are in place to protect the children in our care. Other relevant Policies include:- Intimate Care Policy; Use of Images Policy; Use of Mobile Phone Policy; Anti Bullying Policy; Assertive Discipline Policy.

Copies of all these Policies are available in the School Office should parents wish to see them in more detail. A copy of the full Policy is available on request. Child Protection records are kept under secure conditions.

The following is a summary of the procedures set up in school:

Procedure 1: Where the school has concerns, or has been given information about possible abuse, by someone outside the school:

- Tell the Designated Teacher Miss Miller or speak to Mrs Thompson the Deputy Designated Teacher.
- A written statement of allegations is prepared.
- The Principal/Designated Teacher may inform Social Services, PSNI CAIU Team and /or Child Protection Officers at EA.
- Procedures will be carried out by relevant bodies.
- The Principal will attend case conferences and inform the Board of Governors of any relevant issues.

Procedure 2: How a Parent can deal with concerns about a child's safety either in school or outside school.

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 Miss Miller (Designated Teacher)



If I am still concerned I can talk to Mrs Thompson (Principal)



If I am still concerned I can contact Mr R Lyttle
(Chairperson of Governors)
2 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards, BT23 8SR

At any time I can talk to the PSNI or EA Gateway Team Tel: 0300 1000300 / out of hours number 028 9056544 or the ChildLine number is 0800 1111.

