

## Parents Awareness Leaflet on Our Child Protection Policy

### Policy Statement

It is our policy to safeguard the welfare of the children in our care by endeavouring to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

We in St. Tierney's PS 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. All staff, teaching and non-teaching should be alert to the signs of possible abuse and should know the procedures to be followed. This Policy sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or harm to a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school

### Principles

The following principles form the basis of our child Protection Policy:

- Children should be listened to and taken seriously
- In any incident the child's welfare must always be paramount; this overrides all other considerations
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families but where there is conflict the child's interest must always come first.

### Implementation of Procedure

The Designated Teacher **Mrs Murray** shall be the person with special responsibility for dealing with cases of suspected child abuse.

In her absence **Mr McMahon** is the Deputy Designated Teacher.

### The role of the Designated Teacher is to:

- Listen to the child
- To support the child
- Notify necessary parties/agencies

Where non-teaching staff is alerted to the possibility of abuse, they should inform the designated/deputy-designated teacher immediately.

## Procedures for dealing with Bullying

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school.

All staff is vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring and we will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim and to discipline the bully.

Parents of both victim and bully will be contacted immediately bullying behaviour is identified.

Any complaint by a parent that their child is or may be being bullied will be fully investigated by the designated teacher for child protection and team action will be taken to protect the victim. This will include ensuring that another child or small group of children befriend and support the child being bullied during the school day.

A parent making a complaint about bullying will have a response for the designated teacher within one week of making the complaint, indicating the investigation has occurred and action is being taken.

The sanctions taken against the pupil who bullies will depend on the seriousness of the case but will include loss of any privileges or loss of positions of responsibility. His/Her behaviour will be monitored until the staff is satisfied that the problem has stopped.

### Conduct of Staff

The conduct of staff towards the children must be above reproach at all times. In safeguarding the welfare of children, staff must never abuse their position of trust.

Staff should be alert to any suspicion of physical or sexual abuse.

They should also be aware of the negative aspect of emotional abuse in the form of persistent sarcasm or verbal bullying. Members of staff should ensure that their conduct with the children could never be perceived or alleged as abusive.

### Training

Both the teaching and ancillary staff has been trained by the School's Designated Teacher and this training will be updated every two years. The subject will also be addressed in the induction of newly appointed staff, both teaching and non-teaching.

## Allegations against Staff

Any complaints made that a member of staff has abused a pupil will be thoroughly investigated using the appropriate Child Protection Procedures.

Advice will immediately be sought from the Education Authority Child Protection Support Officer (CPSS), and Social Services. Preliminary enquiries will be carried out.

These enquiries will have regard to the welfare of the child concerned and of the other children in the school, to the efficient functioning of the school and to the rights of the individual against whom the complaint has been made.

### Please Remember

1. If you are concerned about the welfare of your (or any) child?
2. Have you reason to suspect a form of abuse may be involved?
3. Have you been informed about a case of suspected abuse?

Then report your concern immediately to the Designated Teacher Mrs Murray or in her absence the Deputy Designated Teacher, Mr McMahon.

The school will not be involved in investigating the suspected abuse.

**This leaflet is a summary of our child protection policy and the more detailed policy is available on request from the school office or it can be accessed on the schools' web site. Contact details are provided below.**

The following are a list of some of the other related pastoral care and safeguarding policies which are available on request from the school or on our website.

### Positive Behaviour Management

Anti-Bullying	Special Educational Needs
Health and Safety	ICT and E-Safety
Intimate Care	Parental Complaints

### School Contact details

St Tierney's PS, 8 Eshnadarragh Rd, Roslea, Co. Fermanagh, BT92 7JS

Tel: 028-6775 1493

Email: [info@sttierneysps.roslea.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@sttierneysps.roslea.ni.sch.uk)

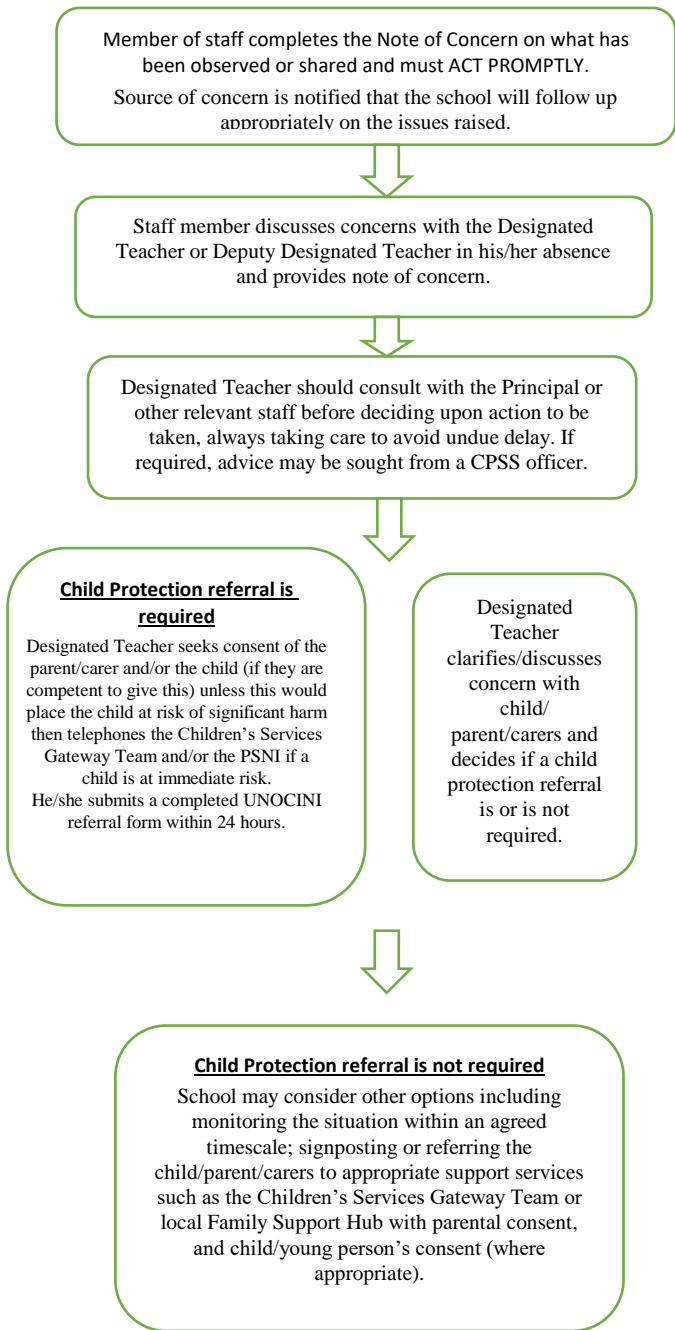
Website: [www.sttierneyspsroslea.com](http://www.sttierneyspsroslea.com)

### Other Useful Contacts

Social Services (Gateway team): 71314090

PSNI: 101 or 999 (Emergency)

**Procedure where the School has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff**

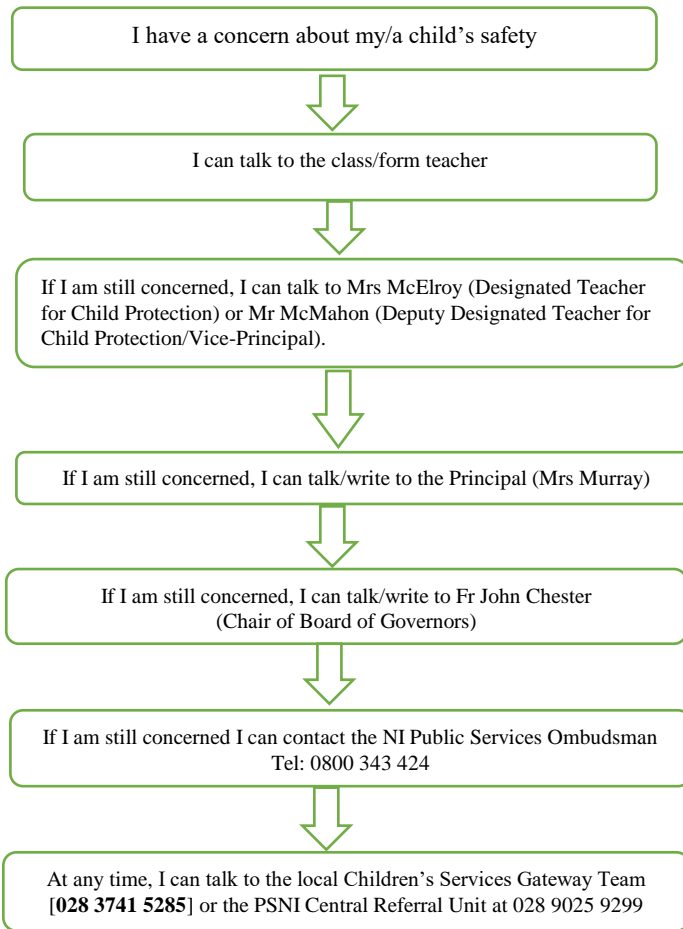


It should be noted that information given to a member of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held in confidence. In the interest of the child, staff needs to share this information with other professions.

However, only those who need to know will be told. The Principal and Staff in St Tierney's Primary School will update the school's Child Protection Policy in the light of further guidance and legislation as necessary and review it annually.

**How can a Parent make a complaint?**

If a parent has a potential child protection concern:



# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY SUMMARY

## A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

