

## Definition of Child Abuse

Child Abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. They can be abused by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger.

There are different types of abuse:

**Neglect:**

The persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to cause significant harm, e.g. inadequate food, shelter, clothing or supervision.

**Emotional:**

The persistent emotional ill treatment of a child e.g. conveying to a child that he/she is worthless, unloved or inadequate. Exposing a child to domestic violence, parental substance misuse or adult mental health problems.

**Physical:**

The deliberate physical injury to a child, or the willful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering e.g. hitting, shaking, confinement to room or inappropriately medicating to control behaviour.

**Sexual:**

Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities e.g. physical contact or non-contact activities such as looking at inappropriate material, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Procedure if you have a Child Protection allegation against a member of staff:

Speak to the Principal



Who will consult the Chair of the Board of Governors



Follow the school's policy and procedures

If against the Principal



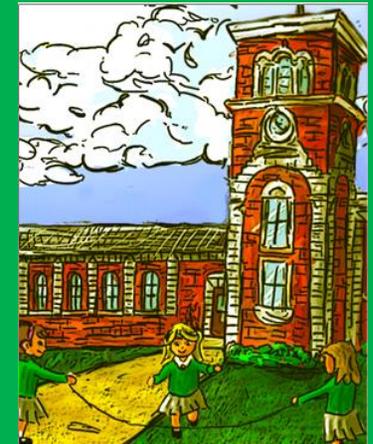
Speak to the Designated Teacher



## Child Protection and the internet.

It is important that children remember that online friends may not be who they say they are. Inappropriate material is available online. Consider using filtering software and agreeing rules about what services you are happy for your children to use. Advice is available by following links on the E-Safety page on our school website.

# Lurgan Model Primary School & Nursery Unit



## Child Protection Information for Parents

### Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher – Mrs. Spence  
Deputy Designated Teacher – Mr. O'Hagan  
Principal – Mr. Campbell  
Designated Governor – Mr T Enderby  
Deputy Designated Governor – Mr T Harrison  
Chair of Governors – Mrs. A Carbery

# Child Protection

It is our policy in Lurgan Model to safeguard the welfare of the children in our care by endeavouring to protect them from all types of abuse.

The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy.

- It is a child's right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- We have a pastoral responsibility towards the children in our care and should take all reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and safety is preserved.
- In any incident the child's welfare must 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.

In all our dealings and relationships with pupils it is vital to affirm the self-worth of the individual and to nurture good relationships between home and school.

All staff have received Child Protection Awareness Training which was updated August 2015.

The care, welfare and protection of children is of paramount importance at all times. The school's Child Protection Policy is based upon the guidelines and recommendations issued by DENI, "Pastoral Care in school-Child Protection" 1999, and kept updated with new recommendations and legislation.

Our Code of Practice is designed to

- Protect children
- Respect the rights and feelings of families
- Safeguard those who work in the school from the consequences of unfounded allegations

In all instances the welfare of the child will be paramount and where there is a conflict of interest, the rights of the child will take priority. Information given to staff about suspected abuse or neglect cannot be held in confidence. Staff are legally bound to share such concerns with the Designated Teachers who may need to consult with external agencies and share information. However such information is only disclosed on a 'need to know' basis.

A copy of the school's Child Protection Policy is available on request from the office.

If you are concerned about your / another child's safety



Talk to the class teacher



If still concerned talk to the Designated teacher (Mrs. Spence or Mr. O'Hagan)



If still concerned talk to the Principal



If still concerned talk or write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (Mrs. Carbery) or the Designated Governor (Mr. Enderby or Mr. Harrison)



At any time you can talk to Gateway Service for Children's Social Work Services (Tel: 0800 783 7745)

In cases of suspected child abuse, the Designated Teacher and/or Principal will seek guidance from Social Services and the Designated Officer for Child Protection at the Education Authority (Southern Region), which may result in a referral going to Social Services. School staff will not investigate the suspected abuse in accordance with the advice, guidelines and procedures currently given to schools.