How Can a Parent/Carer Raise a Safeguarding Concern?

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

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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 Thom or Deputy Mr Hannigan /Mrs McIntyre/ Ms Doherty/ Mrs McClelland

⇩

If I am still concerned I can talk to the Principal Mr Hannigan

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If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chairperson of BOG—Mrs Louise Rossington

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 in 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

School: 028 7082 3090

Chairperson of Board of Governors
Louise Rossington

Designated Governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection
Bryan Hume

Gateway: 028 7032 5462

PSNI: Central Referral Unit 101 (Non-urgent)
999 (Urgent)

Out of Hours Emergency 08001979995
(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 Mr Hannigan immediately.

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

Mill Strand Integrated Primary School and Nursery
35 Ballywillan Road
Portrush BT56 8JL

Mill Strand Integrated Primary School and Nursery

Child Protection Information

Principal
Mr Callum Hannigan

2025-2026

Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility

Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs Stephanie Thom

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mr Callum Hannigan & Mrs Rebecca McIntyre

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection—Nursery
Ms Deirdre Doherty & Mrs Sophie McClelland

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 Mill Strand Integrated Primary School and Nursery 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 Mill Strand Integrated Primary School and Nursery 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.
- Mill Strand Integrated Primary School and Nursery 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 Mill Strand Integrated Primary School and Nursery

Chair of Governors: Louise Rossington

Principal: Callum Hannigan

Designated Governor for Child Protection: Bryan Hume

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Stephanie Thom

Deputy Designated Teachers Callum Hannigan, Rebecca McIntyre, Deirdre Doherty and Sophie McClelland.

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.

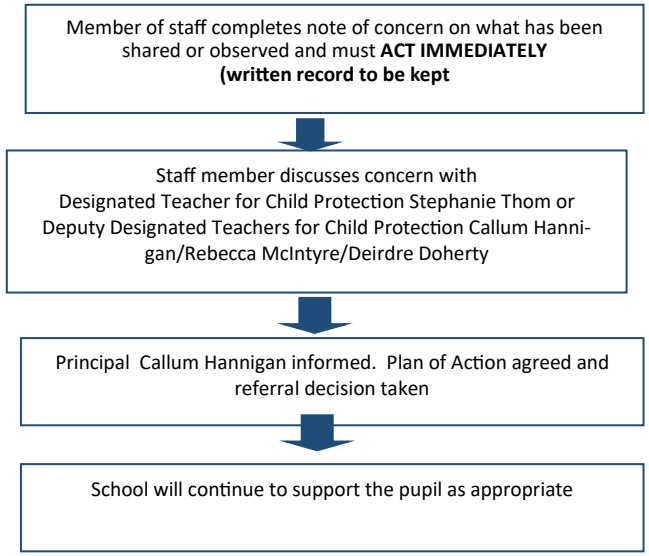
Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement 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 Mill Strand Integrated Primary School and Nursery will ensure that all children are aware of who they 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 September 2023)

Disclosures/Concerns Regarding Abuse or Neglect



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.