

OUR SCHOOL ETHOS

We in Abbey Community College have responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care. We aim to carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for their unique talents and abilities, and in which our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.



All staff, within the school community, receive Child Protection and Safeguarding training annually.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, should be alert to the signs of possible abuse and should know the procedures to be followed.

SCHOOL POLICY

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, can be found on the school website, and sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school.

The policy is updated annually. A full Child Protection and Safeguarding report is also sent twice per year to the Board of Governors.

Child Protection and Safeguarding is discussed in every pastoral meeting within the school.

TYPES OF ABUSE

- PHYSICAL ABUSE
- EMOTIONAL ABUSE
- SEXUAL ABUSE
- NEGLECT
- EXPLOITATION



In cases of suspected abuse, of any kind, the school will always report this through to the relevant external agencies including Social Services or the PSNI.



The school will seek guidance, where necessary, from the Child Protection Support Service (CPSS) in the EA.

It is **NOT** the responsibility of the school to investigate any matter of 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 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

A full overview of the different types of child abuse is located within the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

If a child is open to Social Services and they place them on their Child Protection Register they will be categorised according to the type of abuse.

ANY STUDENT WHO TRANSFERS TO ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOULD HAVE THEIR CHILD PROTECTION FILE SENT FROM THEIR PREVIOUS SCHOOL.

BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

CHILD PROTECTION IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

PRINCIPLES:

The general principles, which underpin our work, are those set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are enshrined in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, the Department of Education guidance "Pastoral Care in Schools - Child Protection" (DENI Circular 99/10) and the Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures 2005.

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

- It is the child's right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- We have pastoral responsibility towards the children in our care and take all reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and their 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; where there is conflict, the child's interest must always come first.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A CHILD PROTECTION OR SAFEGUARDING CONCERN?



I HAVE A CONCERN

Identify the concern and have all the facts relevant before contacting staff.



TALK TO STAFF

You should contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.



THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you still have concerns please contact a member of the Safeguarding Team or the school Principal.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

If you are still concerned, you can write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors or the Designated Governor for Child Protection and Safeguarding.



EXTERNAL SUPPORT

At any time, you can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI on 101.

OUR TEAM



Mrs C McNaghten

Senior Leader for Child Protection and Safeguarding. School Designated Teacher



Mr S Smyth

Vice Principal for Pastoral Care. School Deputy Designated Teacher



Mr D Laney

Vice Principal for Curriculum. School Deputy Designated Teacher



Mr D Sloan

Senior Leader for Child Protection and Safeguarding. School Designated Teacher

A safeguarding newsletter is sent out to all parents on the parent app regularly. This newsletter highlights any key safeguarding concerns which may arise, in the local community, that we wish to alert our parents to.