

## Dunseverick Primary School



What do I do if I have a concern about a child's safety?

I can speak to the class teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mrs Scott the Designated Teacher for Child Protection

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors Reverend Patrick Barton

I can talk to a social worker (0300 1234 333) or PSNI (101) at **any** time



## Dunseverick Primary School Child Protection Policy

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### A guide for parents

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The staff of Dunseverick Primary School will endeavour to promote a safe, stimulating, positive and caring environment for all pupils, teachers and adults involved in the life of the school. Pastoral care will play an integral part in the academic, social, emotional, physical and moral development of our pupils.

## CHILDREN

- At Dunseverick Primary School the needs of the child come first.
- Reasonable steps are taken to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.
- Children are taught, through Personal Development and Mutual Understanding lessons, to recognise dangers and ways of keeping themselves safe.

## STAFF

- All staff paid or unpaid are vetted
- The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DT) is Mrs Scott
- The Deputy Designated Teacher (DDT) is Mrs McIlmoyle
- All staff and visitors follow a code of conduct intended to keep your child safe
- Staff are trained to recognise symptoms of child abuse



Mrs Scott DT



Mrs Taggart DDT

If staff suspect abuse or a disclosure is made they report it to the Designated Teacher or Principal immediately. The Designated Teacher and the Principal decide on a course of action and if necessary make a referral to Social Services.

## CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse may take a number of forms.

### Neglect

Neglect is the persistent 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.

### Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is *deliberately* hurting a child. It might take a variety of forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

### Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse may involve *deliberately* telling a child that s/he is *worthless*, or *unloved* and *inadequate*. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express his/her views, deliberately silencing him/her, or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones – by a child's peers.

❖ Instances of domestic violence **must** be reported to Social Services.

### Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. It may involve physical contact as well as non-contact activities such as forcing children to look at sexual images.

### Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online.