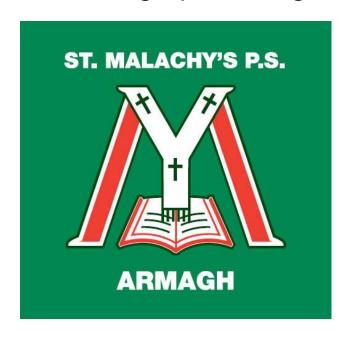
ST MALACHY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

ARMAGH

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (Including Intimate Care, Mobile Phone, Internet & Photographic Image Policies)



Ratified by Board of Governors: 20 January 2015

1. Child Protection Ethos

We in St. Malachy's Primary School, Armagh have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety 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 neglect of a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school

2. 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 (Northern Ireland) 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 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 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; but where there is conflict the child's interest must always come first.

3. Other Relevant Policies

The school has a duty to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activities and functions. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other school policies including:

- Pastoral Care/Behaviour Policy /Anti-Bullying
- Safe Handling
- Special Educational Needs
- Educational Visits
- First Aid and the Administration of Medicines
- Health and Safety Policy
- Use of Mobile Phones/Cameras
- ICT and E Safety
- Intimate Care
- Staff Code of Conduct

These policies are available to parents and any parent requiring a copy should contact the School Principal or visit the school website at

www.stmalachysprimary.org

4. School Safeguarding Team

The following are members of the schools Safeguarding Team

- Designated Teacher: Mrs Mary McKenna
- Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Hanya Copley
- Principal: Mr Paul Duggan
- Designated Governor for Child Protection: Mr Pat Kelly
- Chair of the Board of Governors: Mrs Deirdre Glackin

5. Roles And Responsibilities

5.1 The Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Teacher

The designated teacher and deputy designated teacher must:

- Avail of training so that they are aware of duties, responsibilities and role
- Organise training for all staff (whole school training)
- Lead in the development of the school's Child Protection Policy
- Act as a point of contact for staff and parents
- Assist in the drafting and issuing of the summary of our Child Protection arrangements for parents
- Make referrals to Social Services Gateway team or PSNI Public Protection Unit where appropriate
- Liaise with the Southern Education & Library Board's Designated Officers for Child Protection
- Maintain records of all child protection concerns
- Keep the School Principal informed
- Provide written annual report to the Board of Governors regarding child protection

5.2 The Principal

The Principal must ensure that:-

- DENI 1999 / 10 guidance is implemented within the school
- He/she attends training on Managing Safeguarding and Child Protection
- A designated teacher and deputy designated teacher are appointed
- All staff receive child protection training
- All necessary referrals are taken forward in the appropriate manner
- The Chair of the Board of Governors is kept informed

- Child protection activities feature on the agenda of the Board of Governors meetings and termly updates & annual report are provided
- The school's child protection policy is reviewed annually and that parents and pupils receive a copy/summary of this policy at least once every 2 years
- Confidentiality is paramount. Information should only be passed to the entire Board of Governors on a need to know basis.

5.3 The Designated Governor for Child Protection

The Designated Governor will take the child protection issues in order to advise the Governors on:

- The role of the Designated Teachers
- The content of child protection policies
- The content of a code of conduct for adults within the school
- The content of the termly updates and full Annual Designated Teachers Report
- · Recruitment, selection and vetting of staff

The Designated Governor for Child Protection should avail of child protection awareness training delivered by CPSSS.

5.4 The Chair of the Board of Governors

The Chair of the Board of Governors should:

- Ensure that he/ she has received appropriate ELB training
- Ensure that a safeguarding ethos is maintained within the school environment
- Ensure that the school has a Child Protection Policy in place and that staff implement the policy
- Ensure that Governors undertake appropriate child protection and recruitment & selection training provided by the SELB Child Protection Support Service for Schools, the SELB Governor Support and Human Resource departments.
- Ensure that a Designated Governor for Child Protection is appointed
- Assume lead responsibility for managing any complaint/allegation against the School Principal
- Ensure that the Board of Governors receive termly updates and a full written annual report in relation to child protection activity

5.5 Other Members of School Staff

Staff in school see children over long periods and can notice physical, behavioural and emotional indicators and hear allegations of abuse.

They should remember the 5 Rs: Receive, Reassure, Respond, Record and Refer

The member of staff must:

- refer concerns to the Designated/Deputy Teacher for Child Protection/Principal
- listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief and support the child

- act promptly
- make a concise written record of a child's disclosure using the actual words of the child (Appendix 1)
- Avail of whole school training and relevant other training regarding safeguarding children
- Not give children a guarantee of total confidentiality regarding their disclosures
- Not investigate
- Not ask leading questions

In addition the Class Teacher should:

 Keep the Designated Teacher informed about poor attendance and punctuality, poor presentation, changed or unusual behaviour including self-harm and suicidal thoughts, deterioration in educational progress, discussions with parents about concerns relating to their child, concerns about pupil abuse or serious bullying, concerns about home conditions including disclosures of domestic violence.

5.6 Parents

Parents should play their part in safeguarding by:

- telephoning the school on the morning of their child's absence, or sending in a note on the child's return to school, so as the school is reassured as to the child's situation;
- informing the school whenever anyone, other than themselves, intends to pick up the child after school:
- letting the school know in advance if their child is going home to an address other than their own home:
- familiarising themselves with the School's Pastoral Care, Anti Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Internet and Child Protection Policies;
- reporting to the office when they visit the school
- raising concerns they have in relation to their child with the school.

5.7 The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors must ensure that the school fulfils its responsibilities in keeping with current legislation and DE guidance including

- having a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which is reviewed annually
- having a staff code of conduct for all adults working in the school
- attendance at relevant training by governors and that up-to-date training records are maintained

the vetting of all staff and volunteers

6. What Is Child Abuse?

The following definitions of child abuse are taken from the Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures (2005).

6.1 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, in a family, in an institutional or community setting, 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. The procedures outlined in this document are intended to safeguard children who are at risk of significant harm because of abuse or neglect by a parent, carer or other with a duty of care towards a child.

6.2 Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, confinement to a room or cot, or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that he is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as he meets the needs of the other person. It may involve causing a child to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a child. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may expose a child to emotional abuse.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision. It may also include non-organic failure to thrive (faltering growth).

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse in which a child or young person is exploited, coerced and / or manipulated into engaging in some form of sexual activity in return for something they need or desire and / or for the gain of a third person.

When we become aware of young people below the age of consent engaging in sexual activity or, where we have concerns about a 16/17 year old in a sexual relationship the Designated Teacher has a duty to share this information with Social Services.

Domestic Violence

It is now recognised that children who live in an atmosphere of domestic violence may be at risk. Domestic violence is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Symptoms which young people may display and which are indicators only include:

- Nervousness
- Low self-worth
- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Nightmares / flashbacks
- Physiological stress / nerves
- Stomach pain
- Bed wetting
- Immature / needy behaviour
- Temper tantrums
- Aggression
- Internalising distress or withdrawal
- Truancy
- Alcohol and drugs
- Bullying

These symptoms can lead to a child/ young person being misdiagnosed as having an illness, learning difficulties, or being naughty or disruptive.

If it comes to the attention of school staff that domestic abuse is or may be a factor for a child/young person this must be passed to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher who has an obligation to share the information to Social Services

We will take seriously any concerns which are raised about a pupil in our school who has self-harmed and/or has expressed suicidal thoughts.

The Designated/Deputy Designated teacher will immediately follow the school's child protection procedures.

A child may suffer or be at risk of suffering from one or more types of abuse and abuse may take place on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time.

6.3 Signs and symptoms of abuse ~ Possible Indicators

Physical Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
Unexplained bruises – in various stages	Self-destructive tendencies;
of healing – grip marks on arms;	aggressive to other children;
slap marks; human bite marks; welts;	behavioural extremes (withdrawn or
bald spots; unexplained/untreated burns;	aggressive);
especially cigarette burns (glove like);	appears frightened or cowed in presence
unexplained fractures; lacerations; or	of adults;
abrasions;	improbable excuses to explain injuries;
untreated injuries;	chronic runaway;
bruising on both sides of the ear –	uncomfortable with physical contact;
symmetrical bruising should be treated	come to school early or stays last as if
with suspicion; injuries occurring in a	afraid to be at home;
time pattern e.g. every Monday	clothing inappropriate to weather – to
	hide part of body; violent themes in art
	work or stories

Emotional Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
Well below average in height and weight;	Apathy and dejection;
"failing to thrive";	inappropriate emotional responses to
poor hair and skin; alopecia;	painful situations;
swollen extremities i.e. icy cold and	rocking/head banging;
swollen hands and feet;	inability to play;
recurrent diarrhoea, wetting and soiling;	indifference to separation from family
sudden speech disorders;	indiscriminate attachment;
signs of self-mutilation;	reluctance for parental liaison;
signs of solvent abuse (e.g. mouth sores,	fear of new situation;
smell of glue, drowsiness);	chronic runaway;
extremes of physical, mental and	attention seeking/needing behaviour;
emotional development (e.g. anorexia,	poor peer relationships.
vomiting, stooping).	·

Neglect

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
Looks very thin, poorly and sad;	Tired or listless (falls asleep in class);
constant hunger; lack of energy;	steals food; compulsive eating;
untreated medical problems;	begging from class friends;
special needs of child not being met;	withdrawn; lacks concentration;

constant tiredness; inappropriate dress;	misses school medicals;
poor hygiene;	reports that no carer is at home;
repeatedly unwashed; smelly;	low self-esteem;
repeated accidents, especially burns.	persistent non-attendance at school;
	exposure to violence including
	unsuitable videos.

6.3 Signs and symptoms of abuse ~ Possible Indicators

Sexual Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators
Bruises, scratches, bite marks or other	What the child tells you;
injuries to breasts, buttocks, lower	withdrawn; chronic depression;
abdomen or thighs;	excessive sexual precociousness;
bruises or bleeding in genital or anal	seductiveness;
areas;	children having knowledge beyond their
torn, stained or bloody underclothes;	usual frame of reference e.g. young child
chronic ailments such as recurrent	who can describe details of adult
abdominal pains or headaches;	sexuality; parent/child role reversal;
difficulty in walking or sitting;	over concerned for siblings;
frequent urinary infections;	poor self-esteem; self-devaluation;
avoidance of lessons especially PE,	lack of confidence; peer problems;
games, showers;	lack of involvement;
unexplained pregnancies where the	massive weight change;
identify of the father is vague;	suicide attempts (especially
anorexia/gross over-eating.	adolescents); hysterical/angry outbursts;
	lack of emotional control;
	sudden school difficulties e.g.
	deterioration in school work or behaviour;
	inappropriate sex play;
	repeated attempts to run away from
	home; unusual or bizarre sexual themes
	in children's art work or stories;
	vulnerability to sexual and emotional
	exploitation; promiscuity;
	exposure to pornographic material.

The following are guidelines for use by staff should a child disclose concerns of a child protection nature.

Do:	Do not:	
Listen to what the child says	Ask leading questions.	
Assure the child they are not at fault	Put words into the child's mouth.	
Explain to the child that you cannot	Ignore the child's behaviour.	

keep it a secret

- Document exactly what the child says using his/her exact words
- Remember not to promise the child confidentiality
- Stay calm
- Listen
- Accept
- Reassure
- Explain what you are going to do
- Record accurately
- Seek support for yourself

- Remove any clothing.
- Panic
- Promise to keep secrets
- Ask leading questions
- Make the child repeat the story unnecessarily
- Delay
- Start to investigate
- Do Nothing

7. Procedures for making complaints in relation to child abuse

7.1 How a Parent can make a Complaint

At St Malachy's Primary School we aim to work closely with parents/guardians in supporting all aspects of their child's development and well-being. Any concerns a parent may have will be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional manner. If a parent has a concern they can talk to the class teacher or any member of the school's safeguarding team: the Principal, the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher for child protection. If they are still concerned they may talk to the Chair of the Board of Governors. At any time a parent may talk to a social worker in the local Gateway team or to the PSNI Public Protection Unit. Details of who to contact are shown in the flowchart in **Appendix 2**.

7.2 Where the school has concerns or has been given information about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school staff including volunteers

Where staff become aware of concerns or are approached by a child they should not investigate as this is the responsibility of Social Services and/or PSNI. Staff should report these concerns immediately to the Designated/Deputy Teacher and full notes should be made. These notes or records should be factual, objective and include what was seen, said, heard or reported. They should include details of the place and time and who was present and should be given to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher. The person who reports the incident must treat the matter in confidence.

The Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher will decide whether in the best interest of the child the matter needs to be referred to Social Services. If there are concerns that the child may be at risk, the school is obliged to make a referral. Unless there are concerns that a parent may be the possible abuser, the parent will be informed immediately.

The Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher may consult with members of the school's safeguarding team, the Southern Education & Library Board's Designated Officer for Child Protection or Social Services Gateway Team before a referral is made. During consultation with the SELB Designated Officer the child's details will be shared. No decision to refer a case to Social Services will be made without the fullest consideration and on appropriate advice. The safety of the child is our prime priority.

Where there are concerns about possible abuse and a referral needs to be made the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher will telephone Social Services Gateway Team. He/she will also notify the SELB Designated Officer for Child Protection. A UNOCINI (Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland) referral form will also be completed and forwarded to the Gateway team with a copy sent to the SELB Designated Officer for Child Protection and a copy will be kept in the school's child protection file.

If the Principal has concerns that a child may be at immediate risk from a volunteer, the services of the volunteer will be terminated immediately.

This procedure with names and contact numbers is shown in **Appendix 3**.

7.3 Where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school's staff

If a complaint about possible child abuse is made against a member of staff, the Principal {or Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher if the Principal is not available) **must be informed immediately.** The above procedures will apply (unless the complaint is about the Principal/Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher)

If a complaint is made against the Principal the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher will inform the Chairperson of the Board of Governors who will ensure that necessary action is taken.

Where the matter is referred to Social Services the member of staff may be removed from duties involving direct contact with pupils or may be suspended from duty as a precautionary measure pending investigation by the appropriate authorities. The Chair of the Board of Governors will be informed immediately.

Child protection procedures as outlined in Appendix will be followed in keeping with current Department of Education guidance.

This procedure with names and contact numbers is shown in Appendix 4

8. Attendance at Child Protection Case Conferences and Core Group Meetings

The Designated Teacher/Deputy Designated Teacher or Principal may be invited to attend an initial and review Child Protection Case Conferences and/or core group meetings convened by the Health & Social Care Trust. They will provide a written report which will be compiled following consultation with relevant staff. Feedback will be given to staff under the 'need to know 'principle on a case-by-case basis. Children whose names are on the Child Protection register will be monitored and supported in accordance with the child protection plan.

9. Confidentiality And Information Sharing

Information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held "in confidence". In the interests of the child staff have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals particularly the investigative agencies. Where abuse is suspected schools have a legal duty to refer to the Statutory Agencies. In keeping with the principle of confidentiality, the sharing of information with school staff will be on a 'need to know' basis.

10. Record Keeping

All child protection records, information and confidential notes are kept in separate files in a locked drawer. These records are kept separate from any other file that is held on the child or young person and are only accessible by members of the safeguarding team. Should a child transfer to another school whilst there are current child protection concerns we will share these concerns with the Designated Teacher in the receiving school.

11. Vetting Procedures

All staff paid or unpaid who are appointed to positions in the School are vetted / supervised in accordance with relevant legislation and Departmental guidance.

12. Code Of Conduct For all Staff Paid Or Unpaid

All actions concerning children and young people must uphold the best interests of the young person as a primary consideration. Staff must always be mindful of the fact that they hold a position of trust and that their behaviour towards the child and young people in their charge must be above reproach.

The school's code of conduct is available on request.

13. Staff Training

St Malachy's Primary School is committed to in-service training for its entire staff. Each member of staff will receive general training on Policy and procedures with some members

of staff receiving more specialist training in line with their roles and responsibilities. All staff will receive basic child protection awareness training and annual refresher training. The Principal/Designated Teacher/Deputy Designated Teacher, Chair of the Board of Governors and Designated Governor for Child Protection will also attend relevant child protection training courses provided by the Child Protection Support service for Schools.

When new staff or volunteers start at the school they are briefed on the school's Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct and given copies of these policies.

14. The Preventative Curriculum

Throughout the school year child protection issues are addressed through class assemblies and there is a permanent child protection notice board in the main corridor and relevant information in each resource area, which provides advice and displays child helpline numbers. A flow diagram of how a parent may make a complaint is also on display. An enlarged flow diagram for a teacher allegation is in staff room.

Other initiatives which address child protection and safety issues:

Circle Time

15. Monitoring And Evaluation

The Safeguarding Team in St Malachy's Primary School, Armagh will update this Policy and Procedures in the light of any further guidance and legislation as necessary and review it annually.

The Board of Governors will also monitor child protection activity and the implementation of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy on a regular basis through the provision of reports from the Designated Teacher.

On-going evaluation will ensure the	effectiveness of the Policy.
Date Policy Reviewed:	
Signed:	(Designated Teacher
	(Principal)
	(Chair of Board of Governors)

Child Protection Policy for Intimate Care

Intimate care may be defined as any activity required to meet the personal needs of each individual child (in partnership with the parents/carers and child)

Intimate care can include

- Dressing/undressing
- Toileting/Supervision of a child involved in intimate self-care.

Parents/carers have a responsibility to advise staff of the intimate care needs of their child. These care arrangements must be agreed by the teachers/parents/carers and child (If appropriate.)

Any intimate care needs, eg washing/changing a child should be recorded by the teacher.

The practice of providing one-to-one intimate care is supported. However it is recommended that 2 adults should be present if possible.

If you observe any unusual markings/discolourations during intimate care, report immediately to the designated teachers.

All children have the right to dignity and privacy.

If the child appears distressed or uncomfortable when personal tasks are being carried out, provide reassurance and contact the parent or carer.

Mobile Phone Policy

Mobile phones must be switched off when in school, and kept in the child's school bag. They are the responsibility of the child/parent, and the school will not be liable for loss or damage. <u>If a child uses their phone without permission during school it will be confiscated and returned to the child at the end of the day.</u>

<u>Persistent failure to follow this policy will result in the child's parents being informed and it will be requested that the phone be kept at home.</u>

Internet Policy (E-Safety Policy separate)

Parents will be asked yearly via correspondence from school, to give their consent for their child to use have access to the internet in school. If parents wish to change their permission they should contact the school.

Children will not be permitted to 'search' for their own websites, but must use those which have links to the school website, or those which have been checked by the teacher. C2K will block any websites that contain unsuitable material for the children.

Photographic Images Policy

What does a photographic image include?

It includes video and digital photography, camera phones, CCTV, media (film and newspapers) and webcams.

Parents will be asked yearly via correspondence from school, to give their consent to have images taken of their child for media, websites, video etc and whether they give permission for the child's name to be included with the photograph. If parents wish to change their permission they should contact the school.

If a parent does not agree to their child being photographed the staff will comply sensitively to this request.

- Schools must get consent from social workers for looked after children.
- If there is disagreement between parents/guardians it will be deemed that consent is not given.

• Consent is not required if photos and video footage are taken at public events where a significant number of individuals are captured.

What should happen when parents and a pupil disagree on consent?

- 1. When parental consent has been given and the pupil does not wish to be photographed the pupil's wish should be respected.
- 2. When a pupil wishes to appear in a photograph and the parents have not given consent then the parent's wishes should be respected.
- 3. When parents disagree about giving consent then schools should treat the situation as if consent had not been given.

Media and Newspapers

Team Photographs/Photo opportunities

- When photographs and names are allowed to be published, publication can occur.
- If a parent is not happy to have a child's name printed on a photograph then consideration should be given to publishing the photo with no names.

Considerations for Child Protection

Digital technology makes it easier for pictures and images to be used inappropriately as printed material on the web. Photographs can be used as a means of identifying children when they are accompanied with personal information. The content can also be used or adapted for inappropriate use.

Any concerns regarding inappropriate use of images should be reported to the Designated Teachers/Principal.

Appendix 1

St Malachy's Primary School, Armagh

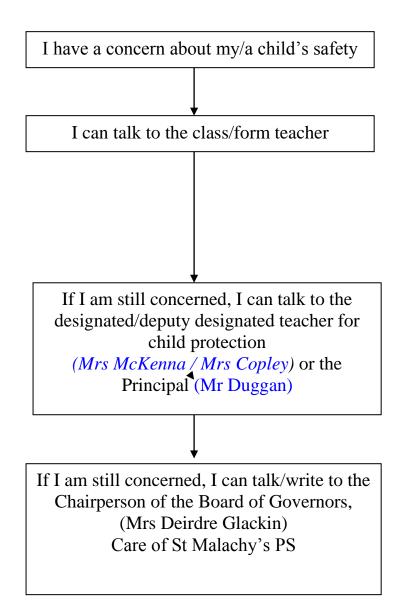
Child Protection Incident Report

Child's Name:	DOB	Class	
Details of Incident/Disclosure*			
N (5)			
Name of Person completing the report:_			-
Designation:			
Signature:			_
Date:			

^{*} Record actual words used by the child/young person

Appendix 2

How a Parent can make a Complaint



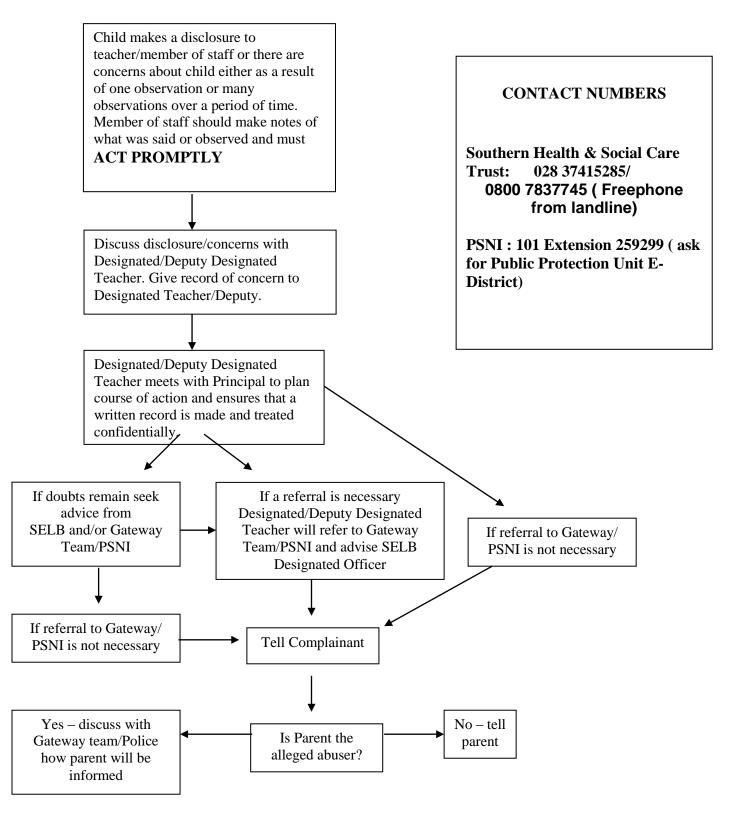
At any time a parent can talk to a social worker at the Gateway Team

Tel: 028 37415285/ 0800 7837745 (Freephone from landline)

Or can contact the PSNI

Tel: 101 Extension 259299(ask for Public Protection Unit E-District)

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



Appendix 4

Procedure where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school's staff

