

## Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche

### Summary of the Policy for Child Protection

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states: “children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by looking after them.” (Article 19)

#### **Rationale**

‘The curriculum needs to be delivered in a school with an ethos which empowers children; a school which allows them to voice ideas, feelings and opinions, treats them with respect, values their contribution and lets parents make a contribution to the educational processes.’ From ‘**Responding to Child Abuse**’.

‘Government departments in Northern Ireland should embrace the opportunity that exists to deliver effective preventative education in primary schools.’ From ‘**Keeping Safe**’.

The central thrust of the Children Order (NI) 1995 is that the welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration, and it is this essential principle which underpins the advice which follows.

The school acknowledges the dignity and self-worth of each individual and the right to enjoy life without fear, threat, violation or neglect. **Where this has been infringed, or appears to have been infringed, the school will follow strictly all statutory obligations and respond to both suspected and disclosed cases of abuse.** The school recognises the need to co-operate with and keep parents/guardians informed of our Child Protection Policy regularly.

#### **Definition of Child Abuse**

***The abuse may be the result of a direct act or a failure to act on the part of a parent or carer to provide proper care and take a number of forms including –***

**Neglect:** 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.

**Physical injury:** The deliberate physical injury to 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:** 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, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of the other person. It may include not giving a child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or ‘making fun’ of what they say, do, or how they communicate. It may involve bullying – including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones – by a child’s peers.

**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, engaging 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.

**Máire Boden** is the Designated teacher for Child Protection and **Aingeal Nic an tSábhaisigh** is the Deputy Designated teacher. **Gráinne Flanagan** is the Designated teacher for CP in the Nursery.

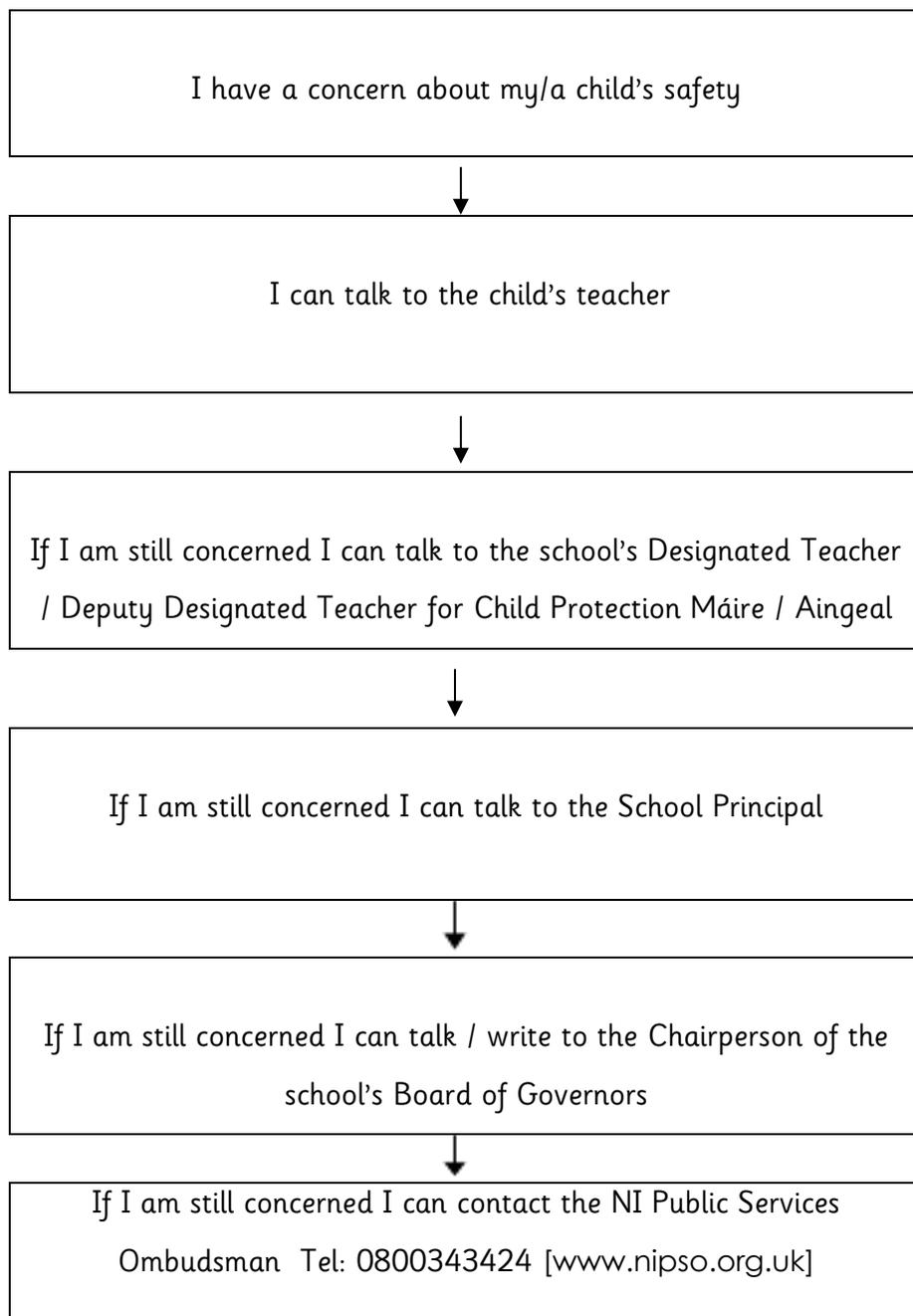
They will manage the implementation of all school procedures in this important area.

**If you have any concerns, please follow the procedures as outlined in the flowchart below.**

A copy of the full policy is available on the school website [www.bunscoilbb.com](http://www.bunscoilbb.com) or by contacting the School Principal.

### Child Protection and Safeguarding at Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche

If you have a concern about a child protection issue, you should follow the steps outlined below:



At any time parents can talk to a social worker based in Downpatrick 02844613511