

Náiscoil agus 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 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 foods, 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.

Physical injury: 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.

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 the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Emotional abuse: 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 children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of the other person. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Bullying, either face-to-face or online, can also be considered as a form of emotional abuse. Domestic Violence (DV), adult mental health problems and potential substance prescribed and non-prescribed) misuse may expose a child to emotional harm.

Máire Boden is the Designated teacher for Child Protection and **Sinéad Ní Thuamáin** and **Gráinne Lindsay** are the Deputy Designated teachers. **Leanne Mackin** is our Designated Governor for Child Protection.

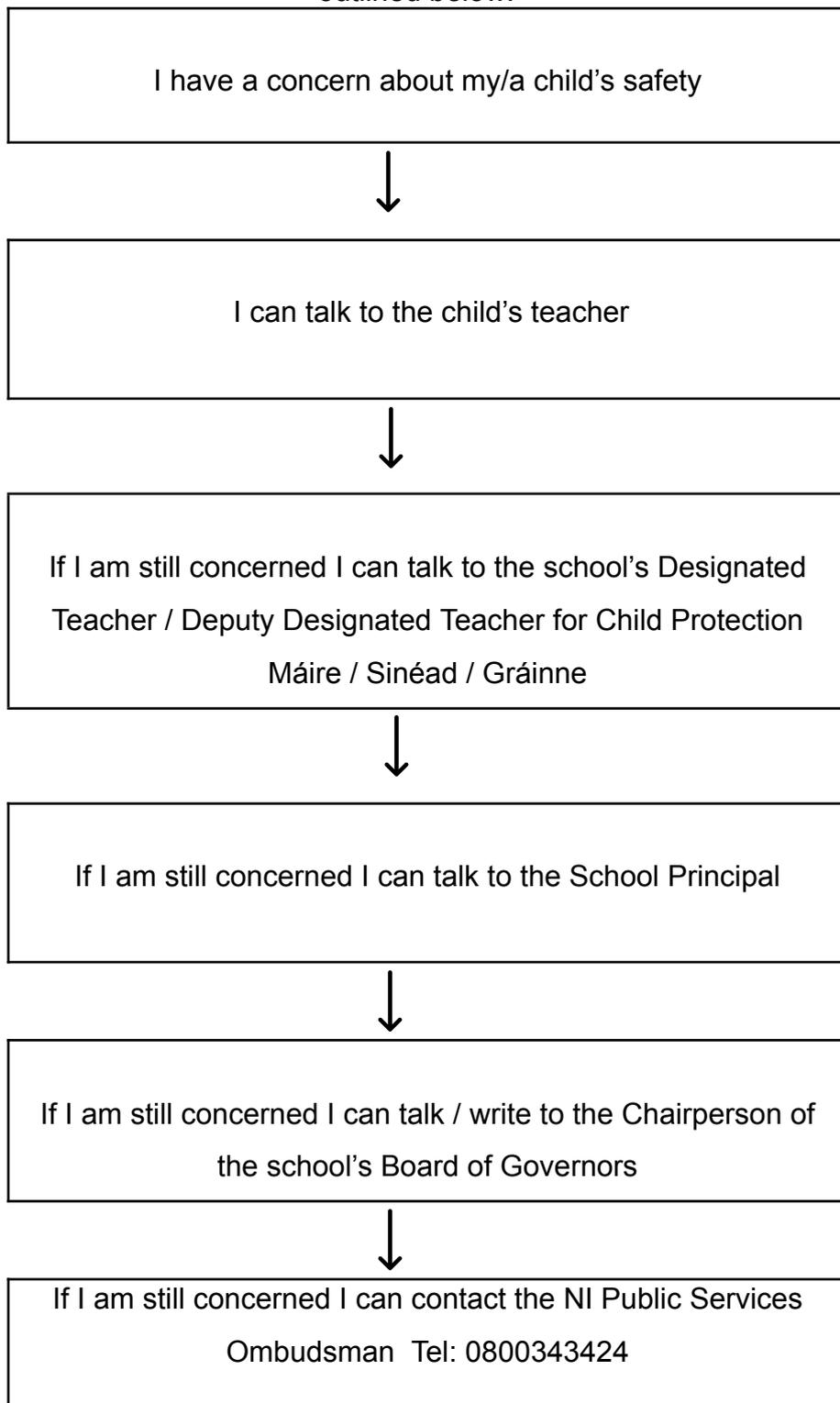
They will manage the implementation of all school procedures in this important area.

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

A copy of the full policy is available on the school website www.bunscoilbb.com or by contacting the School Principal.

Child Protection and Safeguarding at Naíscoil agus Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche

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



Naíscoil agus Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche participates in the Operation Encompass project with the PSNI.

Child Protection Summary Document September 2025

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