

DONAGHEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Child Protection Summary **For Parents/Carers**

Donaghey Primary School Vision



‘Learning together for the experience of life.’

Donaghey Primary School is a happy and caring community school, where children understand the world is diverse and each child is inspired to be curious, active and full of hope.

Mission Statement

Donaghey Primary School will nurture pupils to become resilient and motivated lifelong learners, who take responsibility for their personal development. The whole Donaghey Primary School community will ensure every pupil is given support to thrive and develop their emotional intelligence. The school will work with families to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for each child’s holistic growth.

Aims

We aim to help our children:

1. foster a desire and enjoyment for learning through active learning in a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to their needs.
2. to be critical thinkers and respectful towards the ideas, theories and opinions of others.
3. fulfil their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, creative and emotional potential. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment to Christian values.
4. to be resilient and to proactively look after their own physical and mental well-being and to help others in their time of need.
5. become active learners throughout the curriculum, helping them to develop skills and values to contribute to their community and beyond.
6. to enjoy reading and writing and develop confidence in language which will enable them to communicate effectively with others.
7. develop the skills and knowledge of numeracy to enable them to cope confidently in everyday situations.
8. to use online resources confidently, responsibly and safely to enhance themselves as learners.

Agreed by the Donaghey Primary School community – November 2021

Child Protection Ethos

We in **Donaghey Primary School** have a responsibility for the safeguarding and child protection 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 Summary sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or harm to a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school.

School Safeguarding Team

The following are members of the school's Safeguarding Team:

- Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr Stephen Cuddy)
- Designated Governor for Child Protection (Mrs Gladys Black)
- Principal (Mr Stuart Harrison)
- Designated Teacher (Mr Darren Ferguson)
- Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs Marcella Wilson)

Parents

The primary responsibility for safeguarding and protection of children rests with parents who should feel confident about raising any concerns they have in relation to their child.

Parents can play their part in safeguarding by informing the school:

- if the child has a medical condition or educational need;
- if there are any Court Orders relating to the safety or wellbeing of a parent or child;
- if there is any change in a child's circumstances for example - change of address, change of contact details, change of name, change of parental responsibility;
- if there are any changes to arrangements about who brings their child to and from school;
- if their child is absent and should send in a note on the child's return to school. This assures the school that the parent/carer knows about the absence. More information on parental responsibility can be found on the EA website at: www.eani.org.uk/schools/safeguarding-and-child-protection

It is essential that the school has up to date contact details for all parents/carers.

How a Parent can Raise a Concern

In **Donaghey 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, the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Principal.

If they are still concerned they may talk to the Chair of the Board of Governors. If after this a parent still has concerns they can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman.

At any time a parent may talk to a social worker in the local Gateway Team or to the PSNI Central Referral Unit. Details of who to contact are shown in the flowchart in **Appendix 4.**

Where School has concerns or has been given information about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff

In **Donaghey Primary School**, if a child makes a disclosure to a teacher or other member of staff which gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, the member of staff will complete a Note of Concern and act promptly. **They will not investigate** - this is a matter for Social Services - but will discuss these concerns with the Designated Teacher or with the Deputy Designated Teacher if he/she is not available.

The Designated Teacher will consult with the Principal or other relevant staff always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required, advice may be sought from an Education Authority Child Protection Officer. The Designated Teacher may also seek clarification from the child or young person, their parent/carer.

If a Child Protection referral is not required the school may consider other options including monitoring, signposting or referring to other support agencies e.g. Family Support Hub with parental consent and, where appropriate, with the child/young person's consent.

If a Child Protection referral is required the designated teacher will seek consent from the parent/carer and/or the child {if they are competent to give this} unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm.

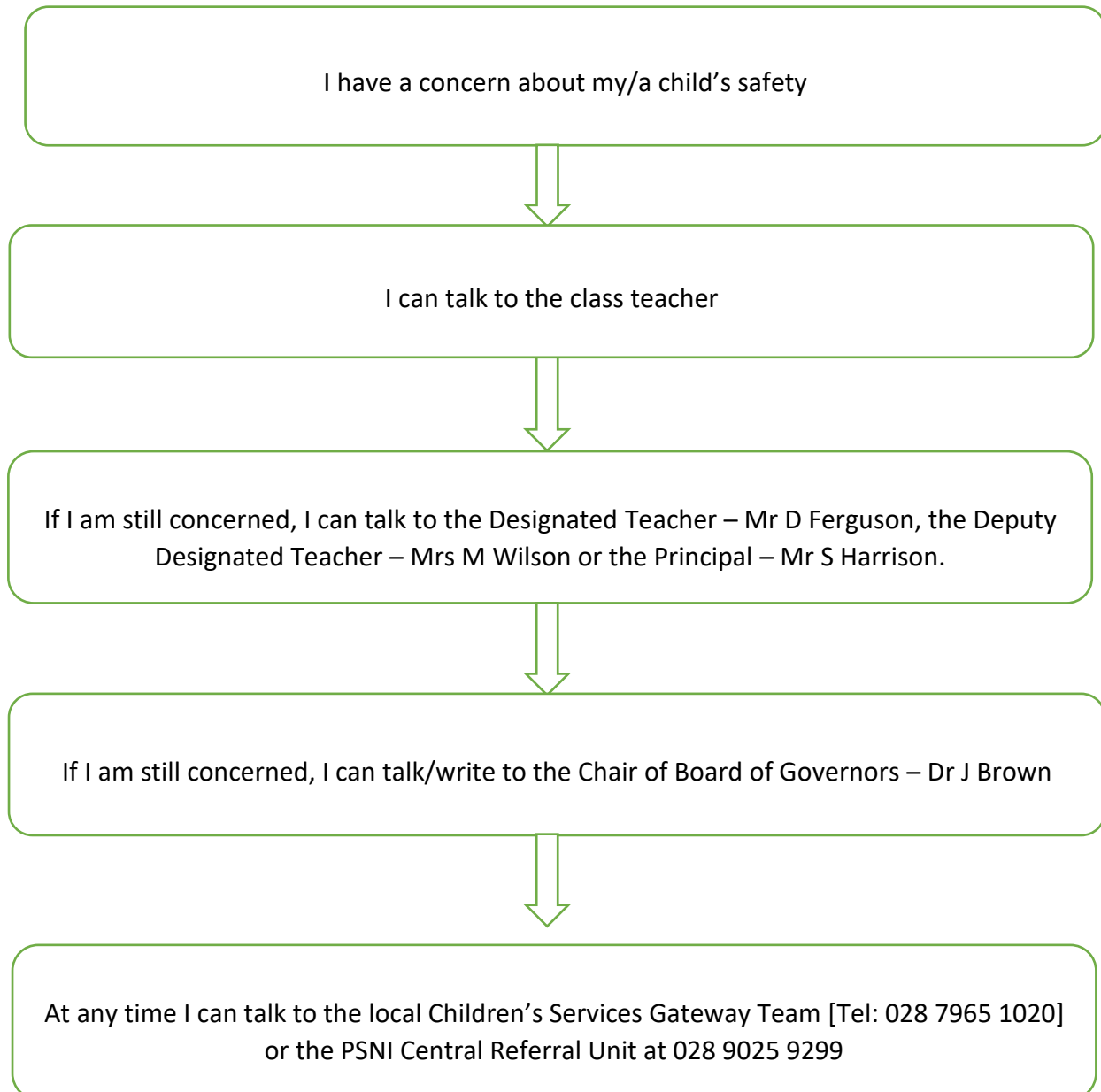
The Designated Teacher will phone the Gateway Team and/or the PSNI and will submit a completed UNOCINI referral form. Where appropriate the source of the concern will be informed of the action taken.

For further details please see **Appendix 5.**

Appendix 4

How a Parent can make a Complaint

If a parent has a potential Child Protection concern:



Appendix 5

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

Member of staff completes the Note of Concern on what has been observed or shared and must ACT PROMPTLY.

Source of concern is notified that the school will follow up appropriately on the issues raised.

Staff member discusses concerns with the Designated Teacher or Deputy Designated Teacher in his/her absence and provides note of concern.

Designated Teacher should consult with the Principal or other relevant staff before deciding upon action to be taken, always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required, advice may be sought from a CPSS officer.

Child Protection referral is required

Designated Teacher seeks consent of the parent/carer and/or the child (if they are competent to give this) unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm then telephones the Children's Services Gateway Team and/or the PSNI if a child is at immediate risk. He/she submits a completed UNOCINI referral form within 24 hours.

Designated Teacher clarifies/discusses concern with child/ parent/carers and decides if a Child Protection referral is or is not required.

Child Protection referral is not required

School may consider other options including monitoring the situation within an agreed timescale; signposting or referring the child/parent/carers to appropriate support services such as the Children's Services Gateway Team or local Family Support Hub with parental consent, and child/young person's consent (where appropriate).

Where appropriate the source of the concern will be informed as to the action taken. The Designated Teacher will maintain a written record of all decisions and actions taken and ensure that this record is appropriately and securely stored.

I have received and read the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Summary for Donaghey Primary School.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____