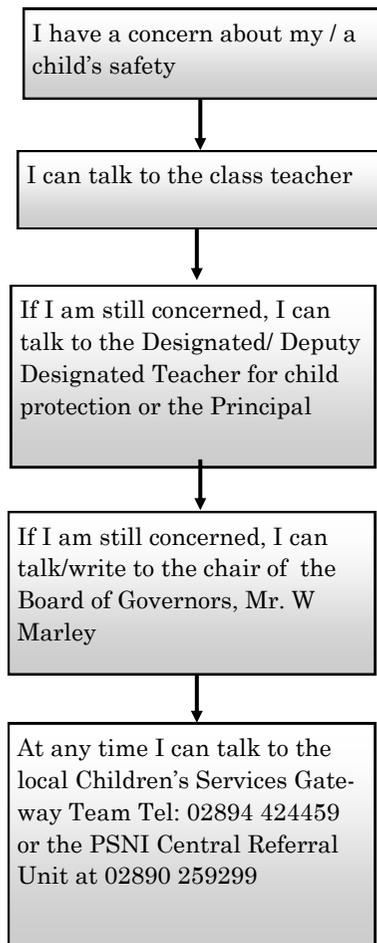


## How a Parent Can Express a Concern about Child Protection



If you have escalated your concern as set out in the above flowchart, and are of the view that it has not been addressed satisfactorily, you may revert to the school's complaints policy. This policy culminates in the option for you to contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO: 0800 343 424) who has the legislative power to investigate your complaint.

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## Child Protection

*A Guide for Visitors and Parents/Guardians*

*Article 19, 'Children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse.'*

*St. Joseph's Primary School*

**'Faith, Friendship and Learning for Life'**

## School Policy

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In St. Joseph's, we aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

It is our responsibility to ensure that all individuals are protected from the risks of possible abuse. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (**UNCRC**) **Article 19**, states that children must be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment.

The problem of child abuse, if it occurs, will not be ignored by anyone in our school.

All schools are required by law to have a Child Protection Policy and to communicate this to parents / visitors. This leaflet is a summary of our school policy on Child Protection.

**Abuse can take any of the following forms:**

**Neglect:** The persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development.

**Physical:** Physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

**Sexual:** The sexual exploitation of a child or young person for an adult's or another young person's own sexual gratification; the involvement of children or young people in sexual activities of any kind.

**Emotional:** Persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/ or behavioural development of a child.

**Exploitation:** 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.

**Bullying:** The deliberate hurtful behaviour of a physical, verbal or indirect nature which is repeated over a period of time.

## *Procedures For Reporting Suspected (or Disclosed) Child Abuse*

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If, at any time, a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff that gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, the member of staff will act immediately and the following process will be applied:

He/ she will speak to:

The Designated Teacher—Mr. McGinley or in his absence the Deputy Designated teacher Miss Keenan—Mrs. Treacy the Principal.

The safeguarding team will discuss all causes for concern and/or disclosures and follow the guidelines / procedures in the school's Child protection Policy.

**Where a disclosure is made the School is legally obliged to refer the matter to Social Services (or the PSNI if appropriate) immediately.**

**Full copies of this policy are available from the school office upon request.**