

## Safeguarding/Child Protection

Our Safeguarding/Child Protection procedures are in place to protect children.

The welfare of each child in our care is paramount.

Everyone who works in Forge IPS has clear guidance on the action required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

Child abuse in any form will not be ignored by anyone in our school

### The Child Protection Team consists of:

**Ms. Denise Mahon** -Designated teacher in charge of child protection.

**Mrs. Grainne Kerr** - Deputy designated teacher for child protection

**Mr. Neville Watson** - Principal



## What is Child Abuse?

**Neglect**—Persistent or significant neglect of a child from exposure to any kind of danger which results in significant impairment of the child's health or development.

**Physical**—Physical injury to the child whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

**Sexual** - The sexual exploitation of a child or young person for an adult or other young person's gratification

**Emotional**—Persistent or significant emotional ill treatment or rejection resulting in severe adverse effects on the child.



## Procedures

If a child makes a disclosure or if anyone working in a school has concerns about a child they must act promptly. They will report what they have been told to Ms Mahon, or in the case of Ms Mahon not being available, Mrs Kerr or in turn Mr Watson

The Safeguarding Team will discuss the matter and a written record will be made.

If appropriate a member of the team will report the issue to Social Services and the EANI child Protection Officer and act on their advice. A referral to social services may be required.

The police may be involved if necessary.

Parents will be informed of action taken unless the child is deemed to be at risk by telling them.



**The school does not investigate child protection issues. Our role is to record and report to the appropriate agencies. The investigation of issues is the role of social services and the police.**

It should be noted that information related to possible child abuse issues cannot be held in confidence. The safety of the child is our priority and information may be shared with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be informed.

## Complaints Against Staff

If a complaint about possible child abuse is made against a member of staff the same procedures will apply.

If a complaint concerns a member of the child protection team the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Michael Prendergast will be informed and assume responsibility of the procedures.

He will work with Mrs. Claire Humphrey who is the designated governor for child protection.

If you require any further information about this policy or procedures please contact the school office.

## If I am worried about something, what can I do?



- **I can talk to my class teacher**
- **I can talk to Ms. Mahon the Child Protection Teacher or Mrs. Kerr the deputy.**
- **I can talk to Mr. Watson.**
- **I can talk to any member of staff and they will know what to do.**
- **I can talk to a Social Worker** by phoning the Duty Social Worker:
  - 028 90 507000 (9.00am—5.00pm)
  - 028 90 565444 (After 5pm, weekends)
- **I can phone the Police and ask to speak to someone about Child Protection:**
  - Non Emergency: 0845 600 800
  - In an Emergency: 999 or 112
- **I can phone Childline:** 0800 1111

Forge Integrated Primary School

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# safeguarding & child protection



**Designated Teacher:  
Ms. Denise Mahon**