**Responsibility to Report**

Any member of staff who knows or suspects that a pupils is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed, has a duty to convey his/her concern to the Designated Teacher or Principal.

Every possible care is taken to minimise the possibility of mistaken referrals, but this cannot be guaranteed.

**The consequences of not reporting suspicions if a child has been abused could be far more serious than making a report which proves to be unfounded.**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

For further information visit the Safeguarding Board NI website [www.safeguardingni.org](http://www.safeguardingni.org)

#### Summary of Procedures for Parents/Carers who wish to refer a Safeguarding Concern

I have a concern about my / another child’s safety

I can arrange a meeting with the Designated Child Protection teacher, Mrs Lisa Phair, or Deputy Child Protection teachers, Mrs Fiona McBride/Mrs Roisin Reilly

If I am still concerned, I can write to the Designated Child Protection Governor, Mrs Melanie Hicks, or the Chair of Board of Governors, Ms Liz McVey, via school, marked “Private and Confidential”

At any time a parent can talk to the Children’s Services Gateway Team

**Tel: 028 7131 4090**

**Tel: 0808 802 1414 (out of hours number)**

 or the PSNI at the Public Protection Unit

**Tel: 999 (Emergency) or**

**101 (Non Emergency**

If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman

**Tel: 0800 343 424**

***Parents will be kept informed of who is notified within school and other agencies, unless doing so would place the child at further risk.***

Enniskillen

**Nursery School**

#### Pastoral Care,

#### Child Protection &

#### Safeguarding Children

**Information for Parents***Mission Statement*

***Designated Teacher****: Mrs Lisa Phair*

***Deputy Designated Teachers****:*

*Mrs Fiona McBride*

*Mrs Roisin Reilly*

A place where children are valued, develop independence, a sense of curiosity and a love of learning.

At Enniskillen Nursery School we recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children in our care by providing a safe, supportive and caring environment.

Enniskillen Nursery School is committed to providing a high quality of care and education, meeting children’s needs during this crucial stage in their early education career when they are growing and acquiring a wide range of knowledge and skills.

A close partnership between home and school will help ensure that your child learns and develops to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication between parent/carer and teacher is essential if we are to achieve this.

Staff see children on a day-to-day basis over long periods of time and are in a unique position to be able to notice physical and behavioural indicators which may be evidence of abuse. We aim to work closely with parents/guardians in supporting safeguarding any concerns raised in a professional manner.

**Staff members have a legal duty of care. At all times we aim to keep the children safe and happy.**

**Principles**

Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following principles: -

* The child’s welfare is paramount at all times.
* Children are listened to and their views and concerns taken seriously.
* Children’s individual needs are assessed and understood.
* Children feel safe, valued and respected.
* The right to confidentiality for parents, carers, members of staff and students will be respected in so far as legal requirements permit.

All children are encouraged to: -

* Talk to staff if they are sad, worried or have any concerns.
* Experience success and achievement to increase self confidence through exploring and developing their talents.
* Become more aware of their own feelings and those of others.
* Take some responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.

**Procedures**

* All staff, volunteers and students receive clear guidance on the action to take where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and attend regular Child Protection training.
* All staff, volunteers and students undergo a thorough vetting procedure in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards children in their care.
* Staff and volunteers work with children to help them resolve conflicts independently and become more aware of the consequences of their actions.

**Categories of Abuse**

* Physical Abuse
* Neglect
* Emotional Abuse
* Sexual Abuse
* Exploitation- Child Sexual Exploitation

**Signs and Symptoms of Abuse**

Detection of abuse is seldom straightforward. None of the indicators, either singly, or in any combination, prove conclusively that a child has been abused.

**Physical Abuse -** Unexplained marks/injuries; scratches, human bite marks or welts, bruises, burns, untreated injuries; chronic runaway; self-mutilation tendencies; aggressive or withdrawn, fear of returning home.

**Neglect -** Medical/physical/special needs of child not being met; looks very thin, poorly, sad; constant hunger; steals food; lack of energy; constant tiredness; poor hygiene; inappropriate dress; frequent absenteeism; low self-esteem; repeated accidents.

**Emotional Abuse -** Sudden speech disorders; wetting and soiling; signs of mutilation; frequent vomiting; poor peer relationships; attention seeking/needing behaviour; fear of change.

**Sexual Abuse -** Soreness or bleeding in the genital or anal areas; itching in genital areas; stained or bloody underwear; bruises on inner thighs or buttocks; pain on urination; difficulty walking or sitting; eating disorders; low self-esteem; association with older people, outside the usual range of contacts, inappropriate language, sexual knowledge for age group.

If I still feel the complaint has not been dealt with I can contact the Education Authority, 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, BT79 0AW

**Child Sexual Exploitation** is a form of sexual abuse, where young people are exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliation and degrading sexual assaults. Child Sexual Exploitation doesn’t always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

If I am still concerned, I can write to the Designated Child Protection Governor - Mrs Melanie Hicks, or the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Ms L McVey via school: