

SCHOOL POLICY

Dear Parent,

In Friends' School we promote a strong pastoral ethos based on a commitment to care, open communication, co-operation, relationships of trust and good sense. We aim to create a community in which our pupils feel safe, protected and supported.

We have a
SAFEGUARDING
POLICY
that:

- provides a framework for all issues relating to Safeguarding and Child Protection
- outlines the signs and symptoms of possible Child Abuse
- sets down clear procedures following a disclosure or suspected Child Abuse incident
- defines the roles and responsibilities of staff concerned
- provides a Code of Conduct for all staff.

It is our RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that all pupils are protected from the risks of possible abuse.

It is our RESPONSIBILITY to deal with any Safeguarding concern reported in School.

It is our RESPONSIBILITY to communicate clearly Safeguarding information to pupils, staff and parents.

It is our RESPONSIBILITY to support pupils who are or have been involved in situations where abuse or need have been identified.

It is our RESPONSIBILITY to work closely with external agencies involved.

A detailed Policy is available at www.friendsschoollisburn.org.uk (in the Pastoral Information section on Policies) or by request from the School Office.

CHILD ABUSE

WHAT IS IT?

Child Abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. A child may suffer or be at risk from one or more types of abuse. Abuse may take place on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time.

Abuse can take any of the following forms:

- **Physical:** deliberate physical injury to a child or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering.
- **Emotional:** persistent or significant ill-treatment or rejection of a child resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of the child. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child although it may occur alone. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance abuse may expose a child to emotional abuse.
- **Sexual:** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities of any kind including physical contact, encouraging a child to behave in a sexually inappropriate way and exposure to pornography which s/he does not understand and to which s/he is unable to give informed consent.
- **Neglect:** the persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care relating to a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs that are likely to result in significant impairment of the child's health or development and expose him or her to harm.

In the context of Safeguarding and Child Protection, a child is any young person under the age of 18.

PROCEDURES

WHAT ARE THEY?

If a pupil makes a disclosure to a member of staff about abuse or concerns about possible abuse; or if a member of staff has information or concerns about a pupil, the member of staff will take immediate action and the procedures below will be applied:

- She/he will speak to P Elliott (Designated Teacher) or M Waring (Deputy Designated Teacher) or C Lowe (Deputy Designated Teacher).
- He/She will keep a confidential record of information referred.
- P Elliott or M Waring/C Lowe will discuss referral concerns with S Moore, Principal.
- S Moore will inform the Safeguarding Team members.
- P Elliott will refer pupil, if appropriate, to Social Services; and inform ELB Designated Officer.
- P Elliott will co-ordinate support in School for pupil.
- P Elliott will maintain confidential records.

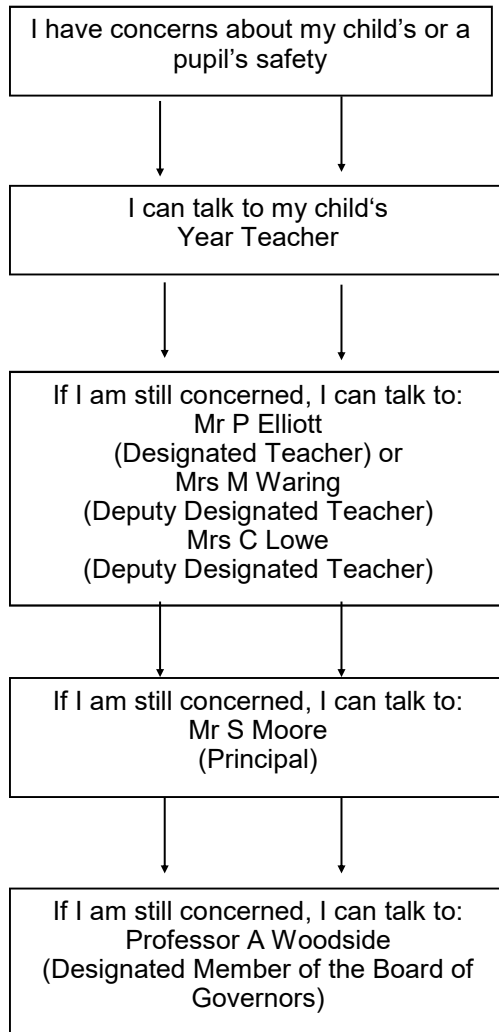
ADDITIONALLY:

- All staff receive annual Safeguarding training at the beginning of the academic year.
- All pupils receive annual Safeguarding information; and Safeguarding messages are actively promoted through Assemblies, within the curriculum and through external agencies.
- Pupils have access to a range of external support services through a Pastoral Notice board; and counselling support through a confidential request box.
- All parents receive annual Safeguarding information.
- The Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teachers and Governors attend statutory refresher training that is cascaded into School.
- The Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Teachers attend related professional development training eg self harm, suicide awareness, mental health etc.

PROCEDURES

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

Our pastoral work in School fosters trust and good relationships and we encourage regular and open communication with you, as parents. We value your support and will keep you informed about the progress and outcome of your concern. The following procedures give you guidelines for expressing a Safeguarding concern about your own child or another pupil attending School:



FRIENDS' SCHOOL

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Teacher:
Mr P Elliott Vice-Principal

Deputy Designated Teacher:
Mrs M Waring SENCO
Mrs C Lowe Senior Teacher

Designated Member of the Board of Governors:
Professor A Woodside

Mr S Moore Principal

Mr P McDonagh Chair of Board of Governors

Friends' School Lisburn



Safeguarding and Child Protection

A Guide for Parents

"We all have a duty of care towards the young people in School and therefore a responsibility to promote and safeguard their welfare".

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