

As a parent/guardian, what can I do if I have a concern about my child or another child's safety?

I can talk to the class teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection, Mrs Baird or Mrs Irvine. Phone **028 4066 2738**

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the principal, Mr McMullan. Phone **028 4066 2738**

If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mrs L Stewart, c/o **Ballydown Primary School**

As a parent/guardian I can talk to a social worker at the Gateway Team.

Contact : **0800 7837745**

Or

I can contact the PSNI Public Protection Unit

Contact: **0845 600 8000**

Ballydown Primary School & Nursery

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy



A guide for parents & guardians

September 2015

Ballydown Primary School & Nursery

Safeguarding Team

- ◆ Designated Teacher : Mrs L Baird
- ◆ Deputy Designated Teacher : Mrs A Irvine
- ◆ Principal : Mr W McMullan
- ◆ Designated Governor for Child Protection : Mrs B McClure
- ◆ Chair of the Board of Governors : Mrs L Stewart

This guide for parents is a summary of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. The full policy is available upon request from the school office.

The aim of this leaflet is to allow you, as a parent/guardian of a child or children at Ballydown Primary School and Nursery, to be updated with the procedures which have been put in place in our school to ensure that your child/children's welfare is protected.

Our responsibilities as a school

As a staff at Ballydown Primary School and Nursery we have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of all children in our care.

Any information shared with members of staff will be dealt with promptly, sensitively and confidentially.

Roles of Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers in Ballydown Primary School & Nursery

- Listen to and support the child
- Act as point of contact for staff and parents/guardians
- Maintain records of Child Protection concerns
- Liaise with the Education Authority (EA) Southern Region Designated Officers for Child Protection
- Make referrals to Social Services Gateway Team / PSNI Public Protection Unit where appropriate

Aims/principles of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

The following principles form the basis of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy:

- It is a child's right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.

- Children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse by those looking after them.
- When we make decisions which affect children, the best interests of the child will be our primary consideration.

What we, as a school, will do if we have concerns about a child in our care

1. In most situations, the Designated teacher, or in her absence, the Deputy Designated teacher, will discuss concerns with the parents/guardians.
2. If concerns persist, we will seek advice from the Designated Officer for Child Protection in the EA Southern Region and / or with the Chief Education Welfare Officer in the EA Southern Region.
3. We will follow advice from the EA Southern Region which may involve a referral to Social Services.

Child Abuse is defined/categorised as below:

Neglect – the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm.

Physical Abuse – the failure to prevent physical injury or causing actual physical injury to a child.

Emotional Abuse – persistent emotional rejection or ill treatment of a child

Sexual Abuse – actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child