



**St Patrick's
Grammar School
Armagh**

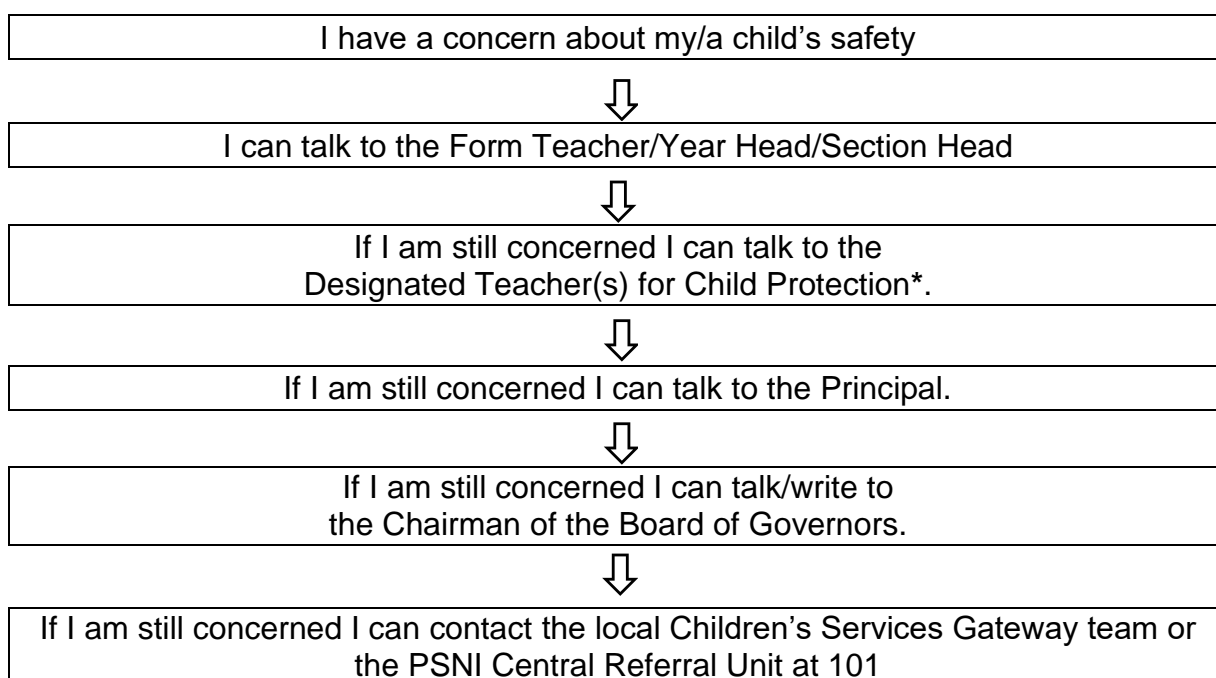
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

CHILD PROTECTION

AIMS:

The school's pastoral care ethos places the student at the centre of the school's work, and promotes the valuing and respecting of students and staff as individuals. It also promotes good communication through which staff (especially teaching staff) are encouraged to listen carefully to students, engendering trust through their approachability. It is hoped this ethos will give abused children the confidence to seek help from members of staff. In addition, the school pastoral care structure via form teachers and year heads and the counselling service provide tried and trusted avenues for communication.

HOW A PARENT CAN DISCUSS A SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN WITH THE SCHOOL?



If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman Tel: 0800 343 424

***Designated Teachers:**

Mrs RoseAnne Slane

Mrs Julianne Denvir

Mrs Nicola Mulligan

AT ANY TIME I CAN TALK TO THE:
Duty Social Worker: ☎ (028) 3756 7100

PSNI Public Protection Unit: ☎ (028) 3083 2011

THE REPORTING PROCEDURES & THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

- 1) The Designated Teacher with special responsibility for dealing with cases of suspected child abuse is **Mrs RoseAnne Slane**, Vice-Principal. In her absence, the Designated Deputy Teachers are **Mrs Julianne Denvir** and **Mrs Nicola Mulligan**.
- 2) Members of staff who have been informed of the abuse of a child or who suspect that a child is being abused should inform the Designated Teacher, or his deputy. In the absence of both, the Principal should be informed directly.
- 3) The Designated Teacher will immediately notify the Principal.
- 4) If the Designated Teacher, in consultation with the Principal, decides that there is reason for concern, he will immediately contact the Duty Social Worker at the appropriate HSS Unit of Management i.e. location which covers the area or in which the student resides, the PSNI or seek advice from the SELB Designated Child Protection Officer.
- 5) All records pertaining to child protection will be lodged in a central file under the control and care of the Designated Teacher.



PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING AN INCIDENT OF CHILD ABUSE



Child makes a disclosure or a member of staff has concerns.



Matter referred to Designated Teacher who plans course of action & consults with Social Services & EA Designated Officer.



Designated Teacher informs Principal.

Principal/Designated Teacher makes referral to Social Services & PSNI.

Principal informs Chair of the Board of Governors.

CHILD PROTECTION & THE INTERNET

Keeping up-to-date with children's use of technology is challenging for many adults. It can be hard to supervise what young people are viewing and creating online, who they are chatting to and texting, and what they are downloading.

Many children may have better technical skills than you; however, they still need advice and protection when using internet and mobile technologies.

CONTACT:

Potential contact from someone online wishing to bully or abuse.

It is important for children to remember that online friends may not be who they say they are, no matter how long they have been talking to them or how friendly they seem.

CONTENT:

Inappropriate material is available to children online.

Consider using filtering software & agree ground rules about what services you are happy for your children to use.

COMMERCIALISM:

Young people's privacy can be invaded by aggressive advertising & marketing schemes.

Encourage your children to keep their personal information private, learn how to delete pop-ups and block spam emails.

SAFE:

Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your name, email, phone number, home address, or school name – to people you don't trust online.

MEEETING:

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parent's or carer's permission and even then only when they can be present.

ACCCEPTING:

Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

RELIABLE:

Someone online may be lying about who they are, and information you find on the internet may not be reliable.

TELL:

Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

CHILD PROTECTION & MOBILE PHONES

The issues about being safe online apply equally to mobile phones, especially as most phones now have internet access.

Whilst there are opportunities in terms of communication, interaction and entertainment in young people having mobile phones, children can be at risk of accessing and distributing inappropriate content and images and talking to strangers away from your supervision.

Children can receive abusive text messages, be vulnerable to commercial mobile phone pressures and run up large phone bills.

It is very important to encourage your children not to give out their mobile numbers to strangers either online or in real life and help them to use their mobile safely and responsibly.

Operation Encompass

SPGS participates in Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools. It is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence.

Following any notification from the police, our staff will provide immediate support to any child who has been the victim of domestic abuse. We know that when children do witness domestic abuse at home, this is a highly traumatic experience for them. By taking part in Operation Encompass, we can provide tailored and compassionate support to our pupils, in line with our school ethos. This builds on our existing commitment to child safeguarding.



**St Patrick's
Grammar School
Armagh**

CATHEDRAL ROAD

ARMAGH

BT61 7QZ

 (028) 3752 2018

 info@stpatricks.armagh.ni.sch.uk

Our full Child Protection Policy can be downloaded via our website: www.stpatricksarmagh.org

OR

It can be obtained from our School Office on request.