

HOW A PUPIL CAN EXPRESS CONCERN

I have a concern about a child's safety

I can talk to:
Form Tutor/Head of Year

If I am still concerned, I can talk to one of the Key Stage Coordinators:

- Mrs C Bell
- Mrs I McCann
- Mr P Kerr

If I am still concerned, I can talk to:

- Mrs E Toner, Vice Principal
- Mr J Mulholland, Vice Principal
- Mrs M White, Principal

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to:

Chairman of the Board of Governors,
Monsignor C O'Byrne

Contacts

If you are unsure about talking to a member of staff you can telephone:

- PSNI -Care Unit: 0845 600 8000
- NSPCC: 0800 800 500
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Contact Youth Counselling Service: 0808 808 8000

College Mission Statement

St Pius X College values each student as a unique individual.

The ideal to which we aspire is contained in our Mission Statement:

*"To promote partnership,
develop talents and encourage participation."*

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**CHILD
PROTECTION**

A GUIDE FOR

**PUPILS/PARENTS/
GUARDIANS/VISITORS**

RATIONALE

We in St Pius X College recognise that “as well as its statutory responsibilities in relation to pupils’ learning, we have a pastoral responsibility towards all pupils and accept that every pupil in our care has a fundamental right to be protected from harm”. In particular, we will do whatever is reasonable, to safeguard or promote pupils’ safety and well-being.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Governors, Principal and staff of St Pius X College are committed to promoting a safe and harmonious environment where each individual recognises that he/she has a duty to help protect children from abuse or risk of abuse.

A detailed policy document is available on request from the College Office or can be downloaded from our website:

www.stpiusxcollege.org

DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

The following are defined according to the ‘*Regional Child Protection Policy and Procedures*’.

Definition of a Child

For the purpose of these Procedures, a child is a person under the age of 18 years as defined in the Children Order.

Definition of Abuse

Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, in a family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them. The procedures outlined in this policy are intended to safeguard children who are at risk of significant harm because of abuse or neglect by a parent, carer or other with a duty of care towards the child.

TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, confinement to a room or cot, or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that he is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as he meets the needs of another person. It may involve causing a child frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a child. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may expose a child to emotional abuse.

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision. It may also include non-organic failure to thrive (faltering growth).

A child may suffer or be at risk of suffering from one or more types of abuse and abuse may take place on a single occasion or may occur repeatedly over time.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING

SUSPECTED (OR DISCLOSED)

CHILD ABUSE

In all cases where symptoms displayed by a child give rise to concerns about possible abuse or the welfare of a child, the college is alerted to possible abuse, or a child makes a disclosure, all staff should adhere to the following procedures:

- bring concerns immediately to one of the Designated Teachers
- complete Incident Referral Form

The Designated Teachers for Child Protection are Mrs E Toner and Mr J Mulholland.

The Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection are the Key Stage Coordinators (Mrs I McCann, Mrs C Bell and Mr P Kerr).

Where a disclosure is made the college is legally obliged to refer the matter immediately to Social Services.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Staff who receive information about children and their families in the course of their work should share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.

No promise of confidentiality can or should ever be made to a child or anyone else giving information about possible abuse.