



St. Pius X College Magherafelt

**Safeguarding
& Child Protection**

Supporting - Participating - eXcelling

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

SAFEGUARDING and CHILD PROTECTION

Information for Parents/Guardians and Pupils

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.

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 our 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 deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.
- **Sexual Abuse** occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.
- **Emotional Abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving a child opportunity to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying – including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones – by a child's peers.
- **Neglect** is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. Children who are neglected often also suffer from other types of abuse.
- **Exploitation** is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking. It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can be sexual in nature.
- **Significant Harm** - A Young Person whose behaviour places themselves at risk of significant harm.

Specific Types of Abuse

Grooming, Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse, Harmful Sexualised Behavior, Online Safety/Internet Abuse, Sexting

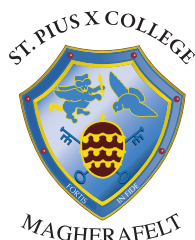
Procedures for Reporting

In all cases of suspected or disclosed child abuse, concerns about possible abuse or the welfare of a child all staff will act immediately and will bring concerns immediately to one of the Designated Teachers. The Designated Teacher will report directly to the Principal and the procedures outlined in the College's Child Protection policy will be followed.

Where a disclosure is made the College is legally obliged to refer the matter immediately to Social Services and/or the PSNI. The investigating agencies are social services and PSNI.

A copy of the College's Child Protection policy is available on request or can be viewed on the college website

Safeguarding & Child Protection



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.

It is with this in mind that we all adhere to our Child Protection Policy. A copy of the Child Protection Policy is available to download from the college website and an information leaflet is available from reception on request.

How A Parent/Guardian Can Express Concern

I have a concern about my / a child's safety

I can talk to the Form teacher/Head of Year

If I am still concerned, I can talk to one of the designated teachers for child protection

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal

If I am still concerned, I can talk / write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors

How A Pupil Can Express Concern

I am worried about something that is happening to me or to someone I know

I can talk to my Form teacher/Head of Year or any teacher

I can talk to one of the designated teachers for child protection

I can talk to the Principal

Mobile Devices



ALL PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES should be switched off within the college grounds.

Pupils may only use **DIGITAL DEVICES** in the course of the school day with the explicit permission of a staff member.

The college will retain any **DIGITAL DEVICE** which is being used. An adult only can collect this.

Misuse / inappropriate use of **DIGITAL DEVICES** will result in a severe sanction.

The School Safeguarding Team:

Principal:

Mr P Friel

Designated Teacher:

Mrs E Toner

Deputy Designated Teacher:

Mr J Mulholland

Deputy Designated Teacher:

Mrs I McCann (KS3)

Deputy Designated Teacher:

Mrs C Bell (KS4)

Chair of Board of Governors:

Ms C O'Hagan

Designated Governor:

Mr Martin Lee

We are here to listen and to help – we will try to do what we can

**At any time
I can call:**

NSPCC

0808 800 5000

New Life Counselling

028 9039 1630

Familyworks

028 9182 0341

Childline

0800 1111

Lifeline

0808 808 8000

HANDLING A COMPLAINT - OVERVIEW

STAGE 1: INFORMAL

Comment / Complaint made to appropriate member of staff (verbally)
(Where possible at an appropriate time)



- Discuss the issues
- Implement any agreements
- No further Action

STAGE 2: INFORMAL

Comment / Complaint made to appropriate Line Manager and/or Principal (verbally)



- Schedule meeting
- Discuss the issues
- Implement any agreements
- Complaint resolved
- No further action

STAGE 3: FORMAL

Stage One
Write to the Principal

When making a complaint, contact the school Principal who will arrange for the complaint to be investigated. If the complaint is about the Principal, proceed to Stage Two.



- Acknowledge receipt
- within 5 working days
- Investigate the complaint
- Implement any agreements/changes
- Confirm outcomes in writing
- within 20 working days
- No further action

STAGE 4: FORMAL

Stage Two
Write to the Chairperson
of Board of Governors

If the complaint is unresolved after Stage One, write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (care of the school and marked 'private and confidential').



- Acknowledge receipt
- within 5 working days
- Investigate the issue/meet with complainant
- Implement any agreements/changes
- Confirm outcomes in writing
- within 20 working days
- No further action

Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO)

If following Stage Two you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you can refer the matter to the Office of the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO).

A complaint should normally be referred to NIPSO within six months of the final response from the School.