

## How can a parent can raise an issue or express a concern?

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

I can talk to the class teacher in the Nursery or Primary Department.

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated /Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Principal.

**Mrs R Watson (DT), Mrs Clifford (DDT), Mrs Spratt (DDT) Miss Blain (Principal)**

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors -  
**Mrs D Baillie** c/o Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit

If I am still concerned, I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman Tel: 0800343424

At anytime, I can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI Central Referral Unit Tel: 028 9025 9299

Details of procedures where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school staff are in the full policy document. Nursery, Year 1 and new intake pupils are given a copy of the full policy. A summary of the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy is issued to parents each year. The full policy document is accessible within school and hardcopies provided given 24 hours notice. The full policy document, summary and relevant updates can be accessed from the school website. [www.whitehouseps.co.uk](http://www.whitehouseps.co.uk)

## Useful Telephone Numbers and Contacts

Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit  
**Principal** - Miss Blain 028 90869252

**Chairperson of Board of Governors** - Mrs D Baillie

**Designated Governor for Child Protection and E Safety** - TBC

**Single Contact for Children's Service Referral**

Telephone 0300 1234 333 or 028 9442 4459

Email: [SPOE.Referrals@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:SPOE.Referrals@northerntrust.hscni.net)

Northern Trust Referral Gateway Team, Oriel House,  
2-8 Castle Street, Antrim BT41 4JE  
Out of hours emergency 028 90565444

(after 5pm each evening at weekends, and public/bank holidays)

**PSNI (CRU) and Public Protection Unit**  
(Mon—Fri 8am–9pm and weekends and public holidays 9am—5pm) 028 9025 9299

**NSPCC** 0808 800 5000  
24Hr Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline  
0808 802 1414 Text 'support' 077 9780 5839

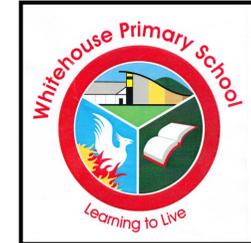
**Child Line** 0800 11 11

**REMEMBER** if you have **ANY** issues regarding child protection or have concerns regarding the safety or well being of any child in our school **DO NOT** hesitate to contact a member of the Safe Guarding and Pastoral Care team immediately.  
**Whitehouse Primary School & Nursery Unit**  
2 Doagh Road, Newtownabbey BT37 9NZ  
028 90 869 252

Please note\* Parents are asked to sign and return acknowledgement and agreement to this policy via the September data pack parent return form.

## WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY AND NURSERY UNIT

### Safeguarding & Child Protection Information 2023/24



**Principal — Miss D Blain**

### WPS SAFEGUARDING & PASTORAL CARE TEAM

**THE SAFETY and WELL BEING OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE**

Chair of Governors & Designated Governor for Child Protection and E Safety	Mrs D Baillie
Designated Teacher for Child Protection and E Safety	Mrs R Watson
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs H Clifford
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs C Spratt



Mrs R Watson



Mrs H Clifford



Mrs C Spratt

## Introduction

This leaflet provides a summary of our child protection policy. The full policy document is available on request from the school office.

- All adults - teaching staff, support staff and volunteers in Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit accept that they have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of our pupils.
- No concern about the welfare of any child will be ignored by staff in Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit. Children's safety and feeling secure and happy in their environment is of paramount importance and it is embedded in the ethos of the school.
- Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit recognises the importance of a partnership between home and school but where issues of child abuse or suspected child abuse arise, our first and only responsibility is to the child.
- As part of our ongoing work in the area of Child Protection we will endeavour to raise children's awareness about themselves and to develop a trusting climate in which our children feel able to talk and share their thoughts and feelings via a preventative curriculum.

## Parental Responsibility

The primary responsibility for safeguarding and protection of children rests with parents and they are required to inform the school:

- If the child has a medical condition or educational need.
- It is essential that the school has up to date contact details for the parent/carer.
- Parents of Nursery, FS and KS1 children should inform the teacher if there are any changes in the arrangements about who brings their child to and from school.
- Parents should contact the school if their child is absent and send in a note on the child's return to school. This assures the parent/carer knows about the absence.
- If there is any change in circumstances for eg change of address, contact details, name or parental responsibility.
- If there are any Court Orders relating to the safety or wellbeing of a parent or child.

More information on parental responsibility can be found on the EA website [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

## What is Child Abuse?

### Child in Need of Protection

A child in need of protection is a child who is at risk of, or likely to suffer, significant harm which can be attributed to a person or persons or organisation, either by an act of commission or omission; or a child who has suffered or who is suffering significant harm as defined in Article 50 of the Children Order. (Cooperating To Safeguard Children and Young People in NI 2016)

**Types of Abuse** Child abuse may take a number of forms including:

**Neglect**- is the failure to provide 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.

**Emotional** - is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

**Physical** - is the deliberately physically hurting child. It may take a variety of forms, hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

**Sexual** - abuse occurs when others use and exploit children and involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities.

**Exploitation** - is the intentional ill treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child, to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or situation for personal gain.

**Domestic Violence** - is defined as: "threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation". (DHSSPS / NIO Tackling Violence at Home, 2005) It is recognised that children who live in an atmosphere of domestic violence may be at risk to various forms of abuse

### Operation Encompass (Feb 2023)

We are an Operation Encompass school. This is an early intervention partnership between local Police and our school, aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse.

\*Staff at WPS are also aware of specific types of abuse including grooming, FGM, children who display harmful sexualised behaviour, forced marriage, E safety / internet abuse.

## School Procedures

All staff at Whitehouse Primary School and Nursery Unit will ensure that all children are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns. The Department of Education of Northern Ireland requires all those working in education to co-operate fully with Social Services & other agencies to protect children. It is therefore our duty to refer if there is a concern about any form of abuse. The following diagram shows the procedures we are required to follow as described in The Department of Education for NI publication 'Safeguarding & Child Protection in Schools 2017/04'

### **Procedure where the School has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff**

Member of staff completes a Pastoral Care Report Form on what has been observed or shared and must ACT PROMPTLY.  
Source of concern is notified that the school will follow up appropriately on the issues raised.

↓  
Staff member discusses concerns with Designated Teacher (DT) or Deputy Designated Teacher (DDT) in his/her absence and provides note of concern

**Mrs R Watson (DT)**  
**Mrs C Clifford and Mrs C Spratt (DDT)**

↓  
DT should consult with the Principal or other relevant staff before deciding upon action to be taken, always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required advice may be sought from CPSS Officer or Gateway Duty Social worker.

**Yes**  
DT seeks consent of the parent/carer and/or child if appropriate unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm then telephones the Children's Services Gateway Team and /or PSNI UNOCINI submitted within 24 hours

DT clarifies concern with child/parents / carers and decides if a child protection referral is or is not required

**No**  
Consider options— monitor situation, signposting or referring to appropriate support services eg Children's services Gateway Team or local Family Support Hub with parental/young person's consent

↓  
Where appropriate the source of the concern will be informed of the action taken. DT will maintain a written record of decisions and actions and ensure these are stored securely.

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.