

Definition of Child Abuse

Child Abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. They can be abused by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger.

There are different types of abuse:

Neglect: The persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to cause significant harm, e.g. inadequate food, **shelter, clothing or supervision.**

Emotional: The persistent emotional ill treatment of a child e.g. conveying to a child that he/she is worthless, unloved or inadequate. Exposing a child to domestic violence, parental substance misuse or adult mental health problems.

Physical: The deliberate physical injury to a child, or the willful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering e.g. hitting, shaking, confinement to room or inappropriately medicating to control behaviour.

Sexual: Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities e.g. physical contact or non-contact activities such as looking at inappropriate material, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

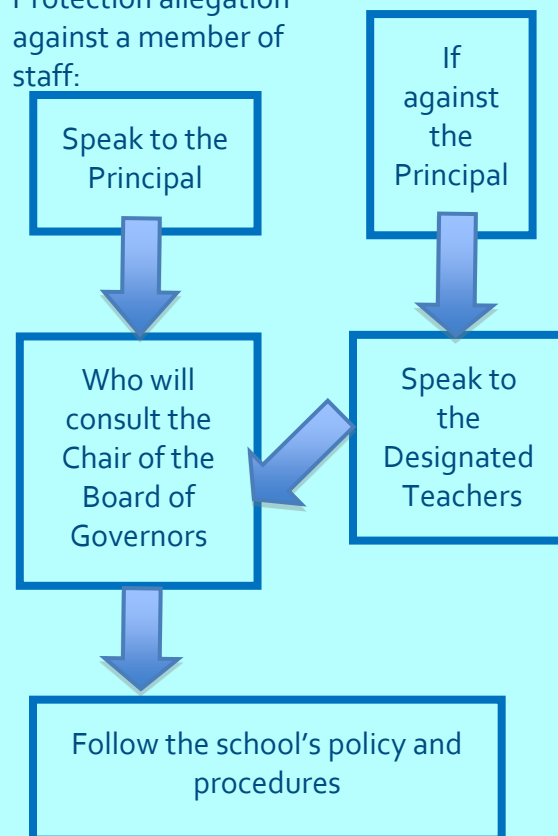
Grooming: of a child or young person is always abusive and/or exploitative. It often involves perpetrator(s) gaining the trust of the child or young person or, in some cases, the trust of the family, friends or community, and/or making an emotional connection with the victim in order to facilitate abuse before the abuse begins

Child Sexual Exploitation: (CSE) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse where a person or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity in exchange for something the child needs or wants, or for the gain of the perpetrator. It may also occur online.

Child Protection and the internet.

Children should be taught to stay safe online when using social media, online games, messaging services and digital devices. Personal information, photographs and images should never be shared without careful consideration. Children should always speak to a trusted adult if something online worries them.

Procedure if you have a Child Protection allegation against a member of staff:



If concerns remain after following the school's complaints procedure, parents may contact the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO).

Abercorn Primary School participates in Operation Encompass. This initiative enables the PSNI to notify the school when a child has been present during a domestic abuse incident, allowing appropriate support to be provided in school

Abercorn Primary School

Safeguarding & Child Protection Information

Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher – Mr. Peter McClelland

Deputy Designated Teacher – Mrs. Adele Stewart

Principal – Mrs. Gemma Harrison

Designated Governor – Mrs. Louise Preston

Chair of Governors – Rev. Colin Harris

Child Protection

It is our policy in Abercorn PS to safeguard the welfare of the children in our care by endeavoring to protect them from all types of harm.

The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy.

- It is a child's right to always feel safe, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- We have a pastoral responsibility towards the children in our care and should take all reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and safety is preserved.
- In any incident the child's welfare must be paramount, this overrides all other considerations.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the child's interest must always come first.
- This leaflet is intended only as a summary of the main aspects of the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. The full policy can be obtained from the school office or on our school website.

In all our dealings and relationships with pupils it is vital to affirm the self-worth of the individual and to nurture good relationships between home and school.

All staff have received Child Protection Awareness Training which is updated yearly.

The care, welfare and protection of children is always of paramount importance. The school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy reflects current Department of Education safeguarding guidance and Northern Ireland child protection legislation.

Our Code of Practice is designed to:

- Protect children
- Respect the rights and feelings of families
- Safeguard those who work in the school from the consequences of unfounded allegations

Responsibility to Report

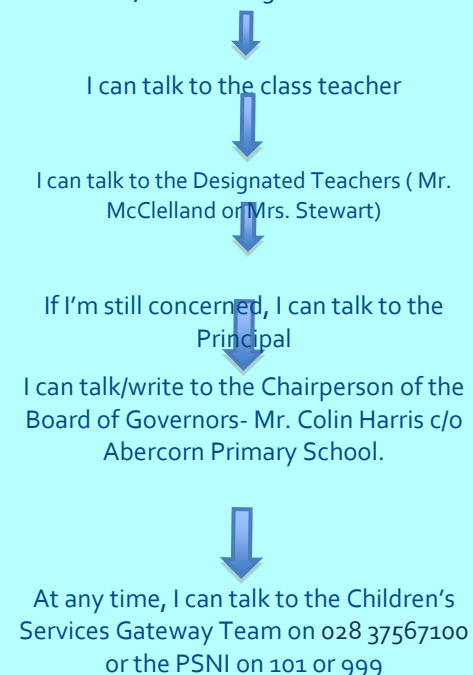
Any member of staff who knows or suspects that a pupil is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed has a duty to convey his/her concern to the Designated Teacher or Principal.

Every possible care is taken to minimize the possibility of mistaken referrals but this cannot be guaranteed. The consequence of not reporting suspicions if a child is being harmed could be far more serious than making a report which proves to be unfounded.

If a disclosure is made outside of school hours (e.g. on a school trip) the following number will be contacted- Regional Emergency Social Work Service (028 95049999)

How a Parent Can Raise a Child Protection Concern

If a parent has a potential child protection concern, follow the guidance below:



In cases of suspected child abuse, the Designated Teacher and/or Principal will seek guidance from Social Services and the Designated Officer for Child Protection at the EA, which may result in a referral going to Social Services. School staff will not investigate the suspected abuse in accordance with the advice, guidelines and procedures currently given to schools.

Full CP policy is available to download on school website.