For more detailed information, please request a copy of our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy from the school office.

All policies are available from the school’s website:

www.stpatrickspshilltown.com

**CHILD PROTECTION TEAM**

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

I can talk to the class teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mrs O. Reavey (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)

or

Ms M. McNeill (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)

If I am still concerned I can talk to

Mrs G. Smith (Principal)

If I am still concerned I can contact Mr Eugene Byrne (Chairman of Governors)

or

Mrs Anne-Marie O’Hagan (Designated Governor for Child Protection Matters)

or

**Contact us by phone at**

**028 406 30061**

**or**

**E-mail us at**

[**info@stpatrickspshilltown.ni**](mailto:info@stpatrickspshilltown.ni)**.**

**sch.uk**

**St. Patrick’s Primary**

**School, Hilltown**

**CHILD PROTECTION**

**and**

**SAFEGUARDING**

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An Information Guide

for Parents

September 2022

**Keeping Children Safe**

St Patrick’s is committed to creating a happy and safe environment for our children. We are committed to the care and protection of all our pupils. We aim to protect pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in the school (teachers, non-teaching staff, students and volunteers) have clear guidance and training on the inter-agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

Everybody has a responsibility to keep all children under the age of 18 safe.

**Harm is identified in five ways:**

**Physical -** This is when a child is deliberately hurt or injured.

**Sexual –** This occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Emotional –** This is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate.

**Neglect –** This is 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.

**Exploitation –** This is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or a young person. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity or child trafficking. Exploitation can be sexual in nature.

**Safeguarding Issues**

**Attendance** – your child’s attendance is monitored daily and significant absences are always followed up by the attendance officer. The school has an attendance policy that you should read and understand.

**Behaviour** – St Patrick’s has clear behaviour rules for the whole school community that must be followed to keep everyone safe and happy. We understand that children do sometimes fall out and this will be dealt with by an adult who will listen to the children involved and help to resolve the situation.

**Bullying** – The school takes all cases of bullying very seriously and will work with children and families to try and resolve any problems. The school has an anti-bullying policy that you should read and understand.

**Health and Safety** – Everyone at St Patrick’s has a responsibility to ensure that adults and children work in a safe environment. The school has a clear health and safety policy which everyone must follow. The school has fully trained first aiders to deal with any accidents in school.

**E-Safety** – The school recognises that technology plays an important role in the education of our children and is committed to safeguarding children in the virtual world. To support parents, the school has e-safety information to help keep your children safe both in school and at home.

**Complaints** – if you have any complaints about how the school is working with you or your child please feel confident to speak to us. The Principal, Mrs Geraldine Smith, will be happy to speak to you to resolve any difficulties.

The following principles form the basis of our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy:

* Children should be listened to and taken seriously.
* In any incident the child’s welfare must always 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.

**Summary for parents and Guardians**

Disclosure/Concerns regarding

abuse or neglect.

Designated Teacher for Child

Protection (Mrs Orla Reavey)

informed.

Principal informed.

Plan of action agreed.

Referral decision taken.

Referral – Social Services or PSNI

Parent/ Guardians informed by

school or social services.

School will continue to monitor

pupils as appropriate and keep

appropriate written record