

How a parent can raise a concern

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

1. I can talk to the class teacher.
2. If I am still concerned I can talk to **Mrs. Mc Veigh** (Principal and **Designated teacher** for Safeguarding).
3. If I am still concerned I can talk to **Mrs Mc Laughlin** (**Designated teacher in School**) **Mrs Lally** (**Deputy-Designated teacher**) **Mrs Gemma McKiernan** (**Deputy-Designated teacher in Nursery**) and **Mr Aldrin Banas** (**Designated Governor**)
4. If I am still concerned I can talk / write to **Fr. Devlin**, (**Chairperson of the Board of Governors**).
5. At any time, I can talk to the Social Services or the police.

GATEWAY TEAM: 02890 507000

EA CPSS: 02895985590

PSNI CENTRAL REFERRAL UNIT: 02890259299 OR 101 EXT. 30299

*A copy of the complete Policies relating to Safeguarding and Child Protection is available upon request, from the office or to download from the school website



Pastoral Care in St. Vincent de Paul Primary School



Pastoral Care

Anti-bullying

Child Protection

**Health and
safety**

Positive Behaviour

Pastoral Care

In St. Vincent de Paul P.S. Pastoral Care is a priority and is at the centre of all that we do.

At St. Vincent de Paul we see our children as individuals who can grow and develop in a stimulating environment where they are given the opportunities to develop their abilities and talents.

We are a caring school where the whole school community shares a common goal- to do the very best for all the children in it's care.

We believe in a "Living Catholic Ethos where children see from the example of others around them how to work and co-operate with others in a spirit of caring and kindness. We want our children to have a sense of **belonging** to a community, (school, parish, family), with an understanding of what is meant by a **responsibility** to it.

Best policies come from existing best practice and we have established a number of good practices which will contribute to the above aims: Rights Respecting Schools, Reward systems, Golden Time, Pupil of the Month, Silver, Gold Awards and Playtime Friend, Team Tokens, Circle Time, Pupil Leadership Team etc. Children are encouraged to contribute to and take part- ownership of school rules and initiatives.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, have been trained in Child Protection issues and procedures and have been made aware of the ethos of the school and of the Code of Conduct followed by everyone who has contact with our children.

All these practices and contributions will feed into other policies which are integral parts of the Pastoral Care Policy: Positive Behaviour; anti-bullying; Health and Safety etc.

These policies are available in written form and will be constantly reviewed and updated.

Child Protection

The United Nations Convention on the rights of the child, (1991), states: **"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by looking after them."** (Article 19)

"When adults or organisations make decisions which affect children, they must always think first what would be best for the child."

The central thrust of the Children Order(NI) 1995 is that the welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration, and it is this essential principle which underpins the advice which follows.

We acknowledge the dignity and self-worth of each child in our school and their right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse by those looking after them. We recognise our pastoral responsibility to the children in our charge and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved. Where this has been infringed, or may have been infringed, the school will follow all statutory obligations and respond to both suspected and disclosed cases of abuse. In this, we recognise the need to co-operate with parents / guardians and to keep them informed on the review of our Child Protection Policy every two years.

We are a Rights Respecting Community who are committed to actively promoting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

