

## **Child Protection Policy (Summary)**

### **Information for Parents - September 2022**

#### **Aims**

St Columb's College aims to establish a caring environment within which the academic, personal, social and spiritual potential of each child will be developed. The pastoral dimension permeates all school activities.

We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge and we will carry out this duty through our pastoral care policy which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

#### **Principles**

Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following principles:

- The child's welfare must always be paramount.
- Children must always have a right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect but a proper balance must be struck between ensuring this and protecting children.
- Every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

#### **School Safeguarding Team**

Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr P Kelly.

The Designated Governor for Child Protection, Mrs M Hamilton.

The Principal, Mr F Madden.

The Pastoral Vice Principal, Mrs C McLaughlin.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs ML O'Kane

The Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection, Mrs AL Kirby, Mrs C Browne, Ms E Kerr and Mrs L Hegarty.

Members of the Team have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of pupils within the school and these are detailed in our full Child Protection Policy.

## **Principles**

In order to protect our pupils, we at St. Columb's will adhere to the following procedures;

- All staff teachers, nonteaching staff and volunteers will have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect is suspected.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo a vetting procedure in order to maintain the highest standard of professional care towards our children.
- All teaching and ancillary staff will attend a Child Protection training programme organised by the Designated Teacher.
- All visitors to the school must report to the General Office.

## **Bullying**

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will be responded to sensitively in our school. All staff will be vigilant at all times and will aim to prevent bullying by raising an awareness with pupils, staff and parents about bullying, its forms and consequences. St Columb's College is committed to zero-tolerance when it comes to bullying behaviours.

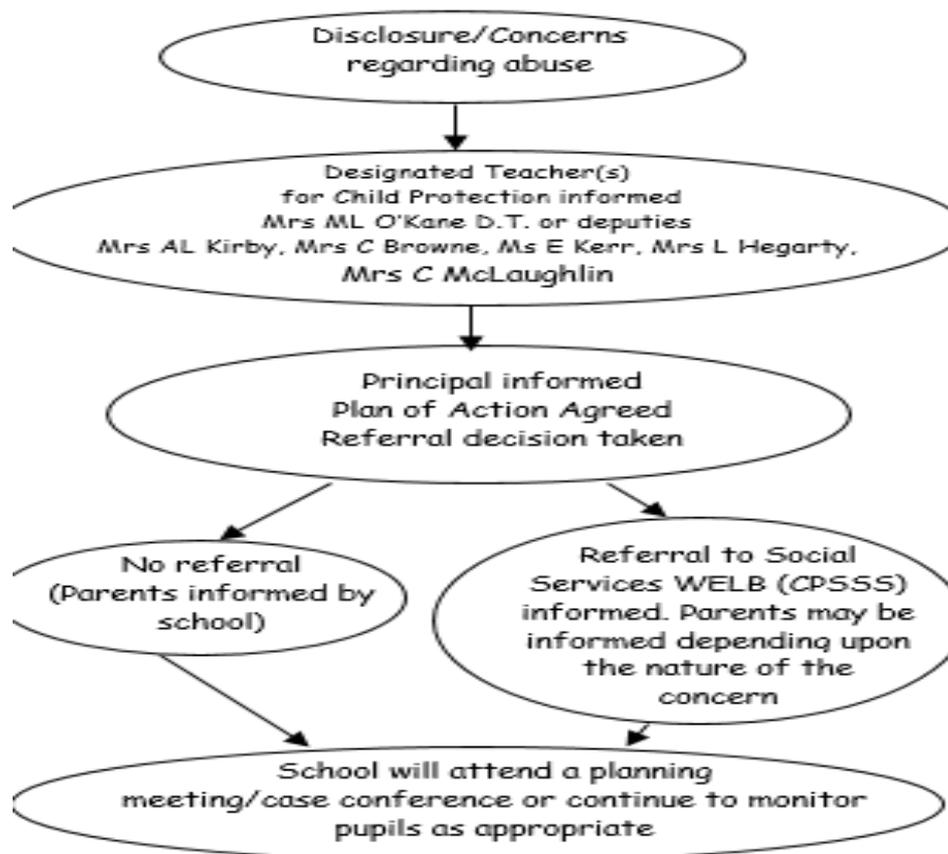
Should you have concerns about bullying contact should be made with your son's **Form Tutor**.

## **Procedures**

All staff at St Columb's 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 Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs M-L O'Kane. The Deputy Designated Teachers, Mrs A-L Kirby or Mrs C Brown, Ms E Kerr and Mrs L Hegarty will assume responsibility in her absence.

The Department of Education of Northern Ireland requires all those working in education to co-operate fully with social services and 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 and is based upon the procedure described in The Department of Education publication, 'Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools' 05/17.



St Columb's College is committed to the provision of a high quality of education for all pupils and high standards for all whom it serves. We believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the Parents/Carers of our pupils is very important. A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our children learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son's care or education, please contact the school and arrange a meeting with his Form Tutor.

We would also encourage you to attend our Parent/Teacher meetings so that members of staff can keep you informed regarding your child's progress and development.

If you have any concerns about your child's safety you should use the following procedure to make a referral:

I have a concern about my child's safety:

I can talk to my son's **Form Tutor** or **Year Head**.

If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, **Mrs M-L O'Kane** or the Deputy Designated Teachers, **Mrs A-L Kirby, Mrs N Barr, Mrs C Browne or Ms E Kerr**.

If I am still concerned I can talk to the **Vice Principal, Mrs C McLaughlin**, or the **Principal, Mr F Madden**.

If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chairman of the **Board of Governors** of St. Columb's College, **Mr P Kelly**.

I can also talk to or the **NI Public Services Ombudsman**, Tel: 0800 343 424

At any time, you can talk to a Social Worker in the **Gateway Team** Tel: 028 71314090 or **PSNI Public Protection Unit** Tel: 0845 600 8000.

This leaflet can only provide a summary of our Child Protection Policy; a more detailed policy is available on request from the school office or it can be accessed on the school APP. Contact details are provided below. This policy will be reviewed annually and issued to parents at least once every **two** years.

Should you have any questions to ask or comments to make in relation to the content of this leaflet or the full policy, please do not hesitate to contact the **Designated Teacher for Child Protection**.

The following are a list of other related Pastoral Care policies which are also available from the school (or on the APP or web site):

Positive Behaviour Management Policy

Bullying Prevention Policy

Working Policy on the use of Reasonable Force/Safe Handling

Special Educational Needs Policy

Policy for Educational Visits

First Aid and the Administration of Medicines

Health and Safety Policy

Policy on Education for Love

Pupil code of conduct for the acceptable use of the networks, mobiles, wireless technologies

St Columb's College Intimate Care Policy

St Columb's College Complaints Procedures

Policy on Drugs

E-safety Policy

Policy on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Other Useful Contact Numbers including school address, telephone number and website details:

School Address:

**23 Buncrana Road,**

**Derry**

**BT48 8NH**

Telephone Number: **02871 285000**

E-Mail Address: **info@stcolumbs.com**

URL **www.stcolumbs.com**

Social Services Gateway Team: 028 71314090

PSNI Public Protection Unit: 0845 600 8000

