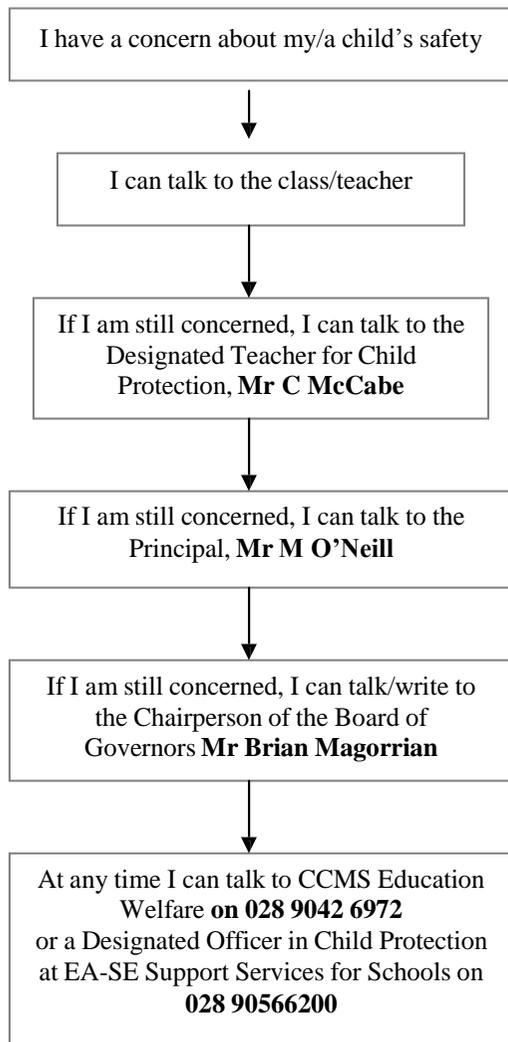


How a parent can make a complaint:



The Safeguarding Team in St Malachy's PS will update the school's Child Protection Policy and procedures in the light of any further guidance and legislation as necessary, and review it annually.

In line with our updated Child Protection Policy and Procedures we would ask that children do not bring in toys or devices of any kind, which have camera or voice recording facilities.

This leaflet is intended as a summary of our Child Protection Policy. The following policy statements are available on request from the Secretary's Office:

- Pastoral Care
- Child Protection
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety
- Anti-Bullying
- Children's and Young People's Safety on the Internet – Information & Guidance for Carers

A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our young people learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment.

Together we can ensure that the best interests of **your child** remain a primary consideration.

Yours _____

Mr M O'Neill
(PRINCIPAL)

St Malachy's Primary

Castlewellan



PASTORAL CARE

&

CHILD PROTECTION

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

In St. Malachy's Primary School there has been a strong and sustained tradition of caring for our pupils in the progressive stages of their academic, spiritual, personal and social development. By doing so we hope to assist each individual to apply himself/herself fully and confidently to the learning process and hence acquire the skills, attitudes, concepts and knowledge necessary for a successful and satisfying school and future life.

In particular, our staff aim to help pupils to:

- feel a sense of worth and dignity
- experience success and achievement
- develop their talents to the full
- assume a sense of responsibility towards themselves and others.

The responsibility for Pastoral Care lies with all staff under the leadership of Principal Mr. Maurice O'Neill. Mr. Cormac McCabe is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, and in his absence, Mrs. Roisin Garland.

A Child Protection Policy operates in St Malachy's Primary School, Castlewellan. We aim to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school (teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers) has clear guidance on the detection and inter-agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care and welfare of each child, which is our paramount consideration.

In all their contact with pupils, staff in St Malachy's follow the guidelines and procedures described in the DENI publication 'Pastoral Care in School – Child Protection' (1999). Updated 2003/13 Welfare and Protection for Pupils.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles form the basis for our 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 interests must always come first;
- children with disabilities are children first and have equal rights to protection. However they may have particular needs which require specialist attention.

In particular, the central principle our staff support is that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and to have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well being.

In all cases of suspected child abuse, the action that will be taken in St Malachy's is that of informing Social Services, the EA-SE and CCMS. The school will not be involved in investigating the suspected abuse (see Fig 1).

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.

FIGURE 1

Procedure where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school's staff:

