

# FLEMING FULTON SCHOOL



## Child Protection Short Guide for Parents and Guardians

**Fleming Fulton School**  
**35 Upper Malone Road**  
**Belfast**  
**BT9 6TY**

**Tel:** (028) 90 613877

**Email:** [info@ffs.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ffs.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

**Web:** [www.flemingfulton.org.uk](http://www.flemingfulton.org.uk)

### **Safeguarding Team**

#### **Designated Teachers**

Mrs Sharon Cummings

Mrs Anne Marie Gallen

#### **Principal**

Mrs Karen Hancock

#### **Chair of the Board of Governors**

Mr Bill Latimer

#### **Designated Governor for Child Protection**

Mrs Rosie McNaughton

## **Introduction**

Society has a duty to protect children and young people from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and from neglect.

Most children and young people are not abused, but for those who are it is often the concern shown by teachers or other people in the education system that leads to their protection from further abuse.

This fact is recognised by the Department of Education which requires all those working in Education to co-operate with Social Services and other agencies in order to safeguard children and young people and protect them from harm.

Child abuse is completely unacceptable and may also be a criminal offence.

## **School Documents**

Several of the school's policy statements and documents make reference to safety and welfare during the course of the working day. These include the Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying, E-Safety, RSE and Pastoral policies, Guidelines on educational visits, etc. The full Child Protection policy is available on the school website. If you wish to have a printed copy, please contact the Designated Teachers.

## **Vetting of Staff and Volunteers**

All reasonable steps are taken to employ and engage suitable adults to work with our pupils. Fleming Fulton School follows the guidance on pre-employment, checking and safe recruitment practices provided by DENI.

## **Seeking Guidance**

The school regularly seeks guidance from outside agencies and the Education Authority Child Protection and Welfare Officers on any issues relating to the safety of pupils and staff.

All adults working in school are aware that when they are in contact with the pupils they are initially responsible for the safety of those children and young people.

However, the Designated Teachers are the staff designated to have specific responsibility for Child Protection.

The appropriate authorities and the Chair of the Board of Governors will be informed if a report of abuse occurs against the Principal.

## Definition of Abuse

Child Abuse occurs when “a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, in a family, in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or more rarely by a stranger.”

(The Area Child Protection Committee Regional Policy and Procedures (ACPC) 2005).

## Types of Abuse

Child Abuse is described under five categories in the ACPC 2005, and Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland March 2016.

Physical Abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, confinement to a room or cot, or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that he is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as he meets the needs of another person. It may involve causing a child frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a child. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may expose a child to emotional abuse.

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children to look at, or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision.

Exploitation is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation for personal gain.

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in Fleming Fulton School. The Child Protection and Anti-Bullying policies explain how bullying will be dealt with. To allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under Child Protection procedures. Staff members are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring, and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim, and to discipline the bully.

## **Procedure for Reporting Suspected Abuse**

All staff working in Fleming Fulton School are made aware of the Child Protection Policy and procedures. All staff have responsibility to attend the Child Protection training provided regularly within the school and are expected to report any concerns about a child or young person to the Designated Teacher who in turn will report it to the local Health and Social Services Trust. Education Authority Child Protection and Welfare Officers or the Police may also be informed.

If a teacher or anyone working in a school

- Is told by a child or young person that someone is harming or abusing him/her (“disclosure”)
- Notices any unusual marks or bruises on a child or young person
- Is aware of inappropriate sexual behaviour or language from a child or young person
- Observes signs of possible neglect of a child or young person (e.g. often tired, hungry, not washed, not properly dressed for the weather)
- Observes signs of possible emotional damage to a child or young person

He/she has a legal responsibility to tell the Designated Teachers who are responsible for making a referral to Social Services. Designated Teachers, Education Welfare Officers, Educational Psychologists and Youth Workers have all had training in Child Protection and they can ask for advice or guidance from the Education Authority Child Protection and Welfare Officers at any time.

Written records will be kept of any reported incidents.

While this training and guidance can help to minimise the possibility of mistaken referral no one has a choice about what to do when it comes to protecting children and young people. If anyone working with children and young people is concerned or suspicious or is told something worrying by a child or young person he/she must pass on his/her concerns as soon as possible.

## **Parental Responsibility**

The data form issued to parents/guardians asks for details of adults legally responsible for the care of children and young people. Parents/guardians are reminded to update this information if changes occur during the year. We will endeavour to work closely with parents/guardians in the protection of their children and young people.

## How an Adult Can Raise a Concern

I have a concern about my/a child or young person's safety or welfare



I can talk to a member of staff



If I am still concerned I can talk to one of the Designated Teachers for Child Protection Mrs Sharon Cummings or Mrs Anne Marie Gallen



If I am still concerned I can talk to the Principal Mrs Karen Hancock



If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chair of the Board of Governors - Mr Bill Latimer



At any time I can talk to the Social Worker or the Police

## Useful Contact

### Education Authority

(Belfast Office)40 Academy Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2NQ  
Tel: (028) 9056 4000  
Email: [info@eani.org.uk](mailto:info@eani.org.uk)  
Web:

### Barnardo's

542 Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3HE  
Tel: (028) 9067 2366  
Web: [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

### Disability Action

Portside Business Park  
189 Airport Road West  
Belfast  
BT3 9ED  
Tel: (028) 9029 7880  
Email: [hq@disabilityaction.org](mailto:hq@disabilityaction.org)  
Web: [www.disabilityaction.org](http://www.disabilityaction.org)

### NSPCC

The Lanyon Building  
Jennymount Business Park  
North Derby Street  
Belfast  
BT15 3HN  
Tel: (028) 9035 1135  
Helpline: 0808 800 5000  
Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)  
Web: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### Parenting NI

42 Dublin Road  
Belfast  
BT2 7HN  
Tel: (028) 9031 0891  
Helpline: 0808 8010 722  
Email: [info@parentingni.org](mailto:info@parentingni.org)  
Web: [www.parentingni.org](http://www.parentingni.org)

### Contact A Family Northern Ireland

63-75 Duncairn Gardens  
Belfast  
BT15 2GB  
Tel: (028) 9262 7552  
Helpline: 0808 808 3555  
Email: [nireland.office@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:nireland.office@cafamily.org.uk)  
Web: [www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)