

## How Can a Parent/Carer Raise a Safeguarding Concern?

I have a concern about my/a Child's Safety



I can talk to the class teacher in school



If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection **Mr Scott** or Deputies **Ms Braniff/Mrs Fitzsimons**



If I am still concerned I can talk to the Principal **Mrs O'Neill**



If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors **Mary McIvor**

At anytime, I can talk to a social worker at the Gateway Services. Contact Numbers Overleaf.

- Details of procedures where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school staff are in the full Safeguarding Policy document.
- A copy of the school's Child Protection arrangements will be maintained and circulated to parents every two years. The policy document will also be accessible within school and copies provided given 24 hrs notice.

## Useful Telephone Numbers and Contacts

St Dominic's Grammar School 02890320081

**Chairperson of Board of Governors**  
Mary McIvor

**Designated Governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection**

Sarah Duffy

**Single Contact for Children's Services Referral**  
028 9050 7000

**Gateway Social Services Belfast**  
110 Saintfield Rd, Belfast BT8 6HD  
028 9050 7000

**Out of Hours Emergency**  
028 9504 9999  
(after 5:00 pm each evening at weekends, and public/bank holidays)

**PSNI Central Referral Unit** 028 9025 9299

**NI Public Services Ombudsman** 0800 343 424

**NSPCC** 0808 800 5000

**Childline** 0800 1111

REMEMBER if you have ANY issues regarding Child Protection or have concerns regarding the safety or well being of any child in our school DO NOT hesitate to contact **Mr Scott, Ms Braniff, Mrs Fitzsimons** or **Mrs O'Neill** immediately.

**THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE**

St Dominic's Grammar School

## Child Protection Information



**Mrs Orla O'Neill**  
Principal

**2025-6**

**Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility**

**Designated Teacher for Child Protection**  
**Mr Darren Scott**



**Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection**  
**Ms Aine Braniff**



**Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection—**  
**Mrs Joanna Fitzsimons**



## Introduction

This guide provides a summary of our child protection policy. The full policy document is available on request from the school office.

- All adults – teaching staff, support staff and volunteers in St Dominic's Grammar School accept that they have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of our pupils.
- No concern about the welfare of any child will be ignored by staff in St Dominic's Grammar School. Children's safety and feeling secure and happy in their environment is of paramount importance and it is embedded in the ethos of our school.
- St Dominic's Grammar School recognises the importance of a partnership between home and school but where issues of child abuse or suspected child abuse arise, our first and only responsibility is to the child.
- As part of our ongoing work in the area of Child Protection we will endeavour to raise children's awareness about themselves and to develop a trusting climate in which our children feel able to talk and share their thoughts and feelings.

### St Dominic's Grammar School Safeguarding Team

Chair of Governors: **Mrs Mary McIvor**

Principal: **Mrs Orla O'Neill**

Designated Governor for Child Protection:

**Mrs Sarah Duffy**

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: **Mr Darren Scott**

Deputy Designated Teachers

**Ms Aine Braniff and Mrs Joanna Fitzsimons**

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.

## What is Child Abuse?

### 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, by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them....' **SBNi Policy and Procedures**

### Categories of Child Abuse

**Physical Abuse** is deliberately physically hurting a child. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child.

**Sexual Abuse** occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Emotional Abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It is also sometimes called psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving a child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying – including online bullying through social networks, online games or mobile phones – by a child's peers.

**Neglect** is the 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. Children who are neglected often also suffer from other types of abuse.

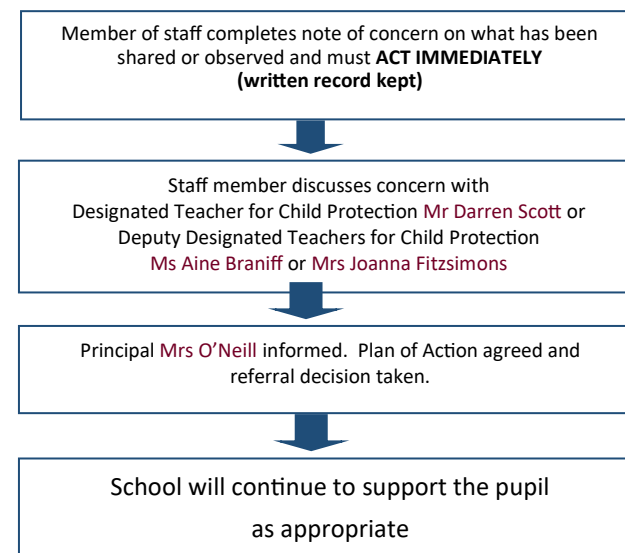
**Exploitation** is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud or child trafficking. It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can be sexual in nature. **"Co-operating To Safeguard Children and Young People in N.I."** (DOH 2017)

## Procedures

All staff at St Dominic's Grammar School will ensure that all children are aware of who can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns.

The Department of Education of Northern Ireland requires all those working in education to cooperate 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 as described in The Department of Education for Northern Ireland publication Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools: A Guide for Schools (updated 2018).



### Disclosures/Concerns Regarding Abuse or Neglect

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.