**As a parent/guardian, what can I do if I have a concern about my child or another child’s safety?**

**Ballydown Primary School & Nursery Unit**

**I can talk to the class teacher**



**Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**

**A guide for parents & guardians**

**December 2019**

**If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection Mrs Irvine or in her absence, a Deputy Designated Teacher. Phone 028 4066 2738**



**AND NURSERY UNIT**

**If I am still concerned, I can talk to the principal,**

**Mr Murphy.**

**Phone 028 4066 2738**

**If I am still concerned I can talk/write to the Chair of the Board of Governors, Rev B Martin,**

**c/o Ballydown Primary School**

**Ballydown Primary School & Nursery Unit** **Safeguarding Team**

* **Designated Teacher : Mrs A Irvine**
* **Deputy Designated Teachers : Mr B Murphy & Mrs S Lindsay Mrs N Walker (Nursery unit contact)**
* **Principal : Mr B Murphy**
* **Designated Governor for Child Protection : Mr S Cassells**
* **Chair of the Board of Governors : Rev B Martin**

**If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman**

**Phone 0800 343 424**

**At any time, I can talk to a Social Worker at the Gateway Team**

**Phone 028** **3741 5285 or 0800 783 7745 (Free phone from a landline only)**

**or**

**the PSNI Central Referral Unit**

**Phone 028 9025 9299 or Phone 101**

This guide for parents is a summary of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. The full policy is available upon request from the school office or by accessing the school website at www.ballydownprimary.org.uk.

The aim of this leaflet is to allow you, as a parent/guardian of a child or children at Ballydown Primary School and Nursery Unit, to be updated with the procedures which have been put in place in our school to ensure that your child/children’s welfare is protected.

***Our responsibilities as a school***

As a staff at Ballydown Primary School and Nursery Unit we have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of all children in our care.

Any information shared with members of staff will be dealt with promptly, sensitively and confidentially.

***Roles of Designated and Deputy Designated Teachers in Ballydown Primary School & Nursery Unit***

* Listen to and support the child
* Act as point of contact for staff and parents/guardians
* Maintain records of Child Protection concerns
* Liaise with the Education Authority (EA) Southern Region Designated Officers for Child Protection
* Make referrals to Social Services Gateway Team / PSNI Public Protection Unit where appropriate

***Aims/principles of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy***

The following principles form the basis of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy:

* It is a child’s right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
* Children have the 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.
* When we make decisions which affect children, the best interests of the child will be our primary consideration.

***What we, as a school, will do if we have concerns about a child in our care***

1. In most situations, the Designated teacher, or in her absence, one of the Deputy Designated teachers, will discuss concerns with the parents/guardians.
2. If concerns persist, we will seek advice from the Designated Officer for Child Protection in the EA Southern Region and / or with the Chief Education Welfare Officer in the EA Southern Region.
3. We will follow advice from the EA Southern Region which may involve a referral to Social Services.

**Child Abuse is defined/categorised as below:**

**Neglect** - the persistent failure to meet a child’s physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm.

**Physical Injury** - the actual or likely deliberate physical injury to a child, or wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering to a child.

**Emotional Abuse -** persistent emotional rejection or ill treatment of a child.

**Sexual Abuse** - actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child.

**Exploitation** - intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child for personal gain.