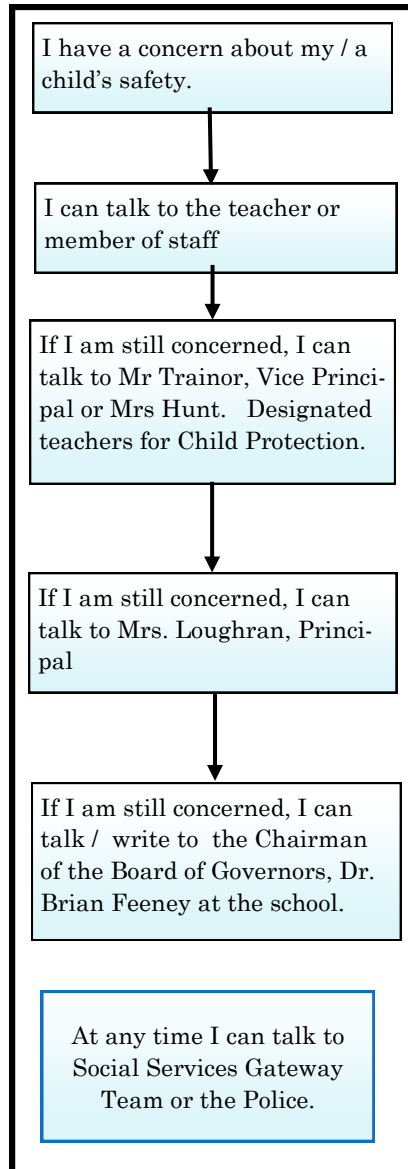


## How A Parent Can Express Concern



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Mercy Primary School  
612-4 Crumlin Road,  
Belfast  
BT14 7GJ

Phone: 028 90391670



## Child Protection

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*A Guide for  
Visitors and  
Parents*

*Mercy Primary  
School*

**Tel: 028 90391670**

## *School Policy*

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In Mercy Primary, we aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

It is our responsibility to ensure that all individuals are protected from the risks of possible abuse.

The problem of child abuse, if it occurs, will not be ignored by anyone in our school.

All schools are required by law to have a Child Protection Policy and to communicate this to parents / visitors. This leaflet is a summary of our school policy on Child Protection.

**Abuse can take any of the following forms:**

**Neglect:**

The persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development.

**Physical:**

Physical injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

**Sexual:**

The sexual exploitation of a child or young person for an adult's or another young person's own sexual gratification; the involvement of children or young people in sexual activities of any kind.

**Emotional:**

Persistent or significant emotional ill-treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/ or behavioural development of a child.

**Bullying:**

The deliberate hurtful behaviour of a physical, verbal or indirect nature which is repeated over a period of time.

## *Procedures For Reporting Suspected (or Disclosed) Child Abuse*

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If, at any time, a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff that gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, the member of staff will act immediately and the following process will be applied:

He/ she will speak to:

The Designated Teacher—Mrs. Hunt or in her absence the Deputy Designated teacher—Mr Trainor the Vice Principal.

The Designated and Deputy Designated teachers will discuss all issues and follow the guidelines / procedures in the school's Child protection Policy.

**Where a disclosure is made the School is legally obliged to refer the matter to Social Services immediately.**