

REPORTING A CONCERN

I have concerns about my/a child's safety



I can talk to the Form Teacher/Head of Year/Counsellor



If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mrs McCracken (Designated Teacher), Mr McBride, Mr McClelland, Mr Smith or Mr Carlisle (Deputy Designated Teachers)



If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mrs Montgomery (Principal)



If I am still concerned, I can talk/ write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr Sweetlove or the Designated Governors, Ms Cox and Mrs Crooks

Belfast Boys' Model School
Ballysillan Road
BELFAST
BT14 6RB



Telephone 028 9039 1156
Fax 028 9071 3048

info@bbms.belfast.ni.sch.uk

www.bbms.org.uk

Outside school hours or in case of an emergency, advice or assistance may be available from:

Belfast Gateway Service

- Monday-Friday 9.00am-5.00pm
02890 507000

- Emergency Out of Hours Service
02895 049999

PSNI 02890 259299
101 extension 30299

Should you wish to have the services of an interpreter to assist you in understanding this guidance, please contact the General Office on 028 9039 1156



Safeguarding and Child Protection

Information for parents & carers

Belfast Boys' Model School

School Policy

A learning environment exists in which everyone feels safe.

- Every person in the school community is protected from harm.
- All staff and volunteers are provided with guidance to help them recognise the signs of abuse.
- All staff and volunteers working in the school have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse of a child is suspected.
- Effective structures and procedures exist in support of the child where a suspicion of child abuse has been reported.
- Every concern about the welfare of children in this school will be followed up by staff.

A detailed policy document is freely available on request from the school office or at: www.bbms.org.uk

What is child abuse?

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 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 (including exposure to pornography) which they do not understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate normal family roles.

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.

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.

Procedure for reporting suspected (or disclosed) child abuse

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 Mrs McCracken (Designated Teacher) or the Deputy Designated Teachers—Mr McBride, Mr Smith, Mr McClelland or Mr Carlisle.
- Mrs McCracken, Mr McBride, Mr Smith, Mr McClelland or Mr Carlisle will discuss any concerns with Mrs Montgomery.
- If appropriate, a referral will be made immediately to Social Services.