

We in Cooley Primary School have the responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of our pupils and we seek to support pupil's development in ways to foster security, confidence and independence. This is viewed as central to the well being of each individual and therefore is seen to be an intrinsic part of all aspects of the curriculum.

### ETHOS

Cooley Primary School and Nursery Unit provide a warm, welcoming, happy and caring environment where all are nurtured, valued and respected as part of our Christian ethos. In partnership with parents/carers, wider school family and local community, we offer high quality learning experiences to enable every child to reach their full potential.

### PRINCIPLES

Our Child Protection Policy is based on the following principles, as the child's welfare must always be paramount:

- Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- Every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and have

proper care given to its physical, emotional and spiritual well being.

### PRACTICES

We at Cooley Primary School take the following steps to protect our pupils.

- All staff will have clear guidance on the action, which is required, where abuse of a child is suspected.
- All staff will undergo a vetting procedure in order to maintain the highest standards of professional care.
- All staff will receive Child Protection training.
- Children will be supervised at all times while in the school grounds.
- When it is necessary for a child to travel on a different bus from their normal one, written permission must be given by a parent/guardian.
- Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and will not be tolerated in our school. All staff will be vigilant and will aim to prevent it by raising awareness with pupils, staff and parents.

All staff at Cooley Primary School will ensure that pupils are aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns.

The **Designated Teacher for Child Protection** is **Mrs Carrothers** and the deputy **Mrs Mitchell** will assume responsibility in her absence. The **Designated Governor for Child Protection** is **Mr McFaul**.

The Department of Education of Northern Ireland requires all those working in education to co-operate 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 of Northern Ireland publication "Pastoral Care In School.... Child Protection (1999)".

### **Useful Contact Numbers**

COOLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

**028 80758742**

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Designated Child Protection Officer

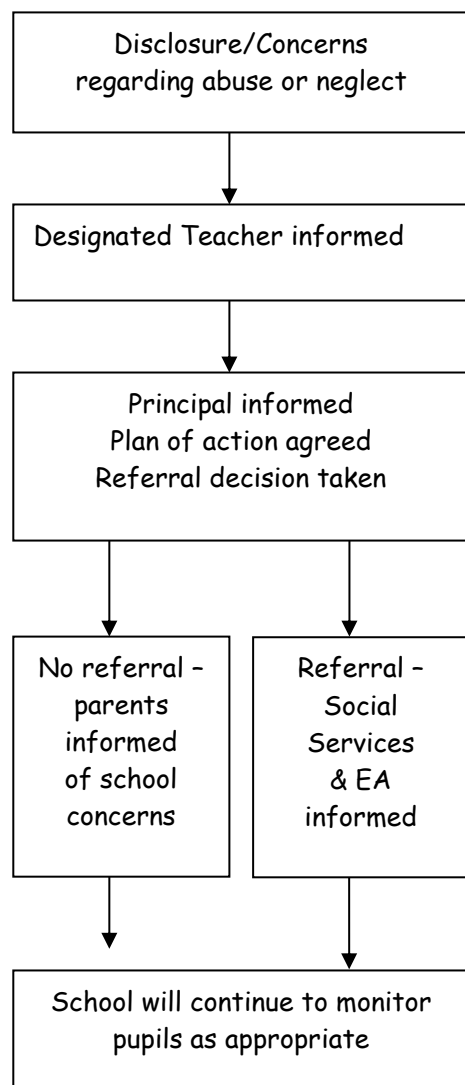
**028 82411480**

WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

TRUST - Gateway Team

**028 71 71314090**

## PROCEDURES



Cooley Primary School is committed to the provision of a high quality of education for all pupils. We believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the parents/guardians of our pupils is very important. A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our pupils learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this. If you have any concern about any aspect of your child's care/education please contact the school and arrange a meeting with the Principal and/or the class teacher.

We would also encourage you to attend our parent/teacher meetings so that we can keep you informed regarding your child's progress and development.

If you have any concerns about your child's safety follow this procedure:

- Talk to the Principal/class teacher
- Talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors.

## COOLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Pastoral Care

### Information for Parents

### Child Protection