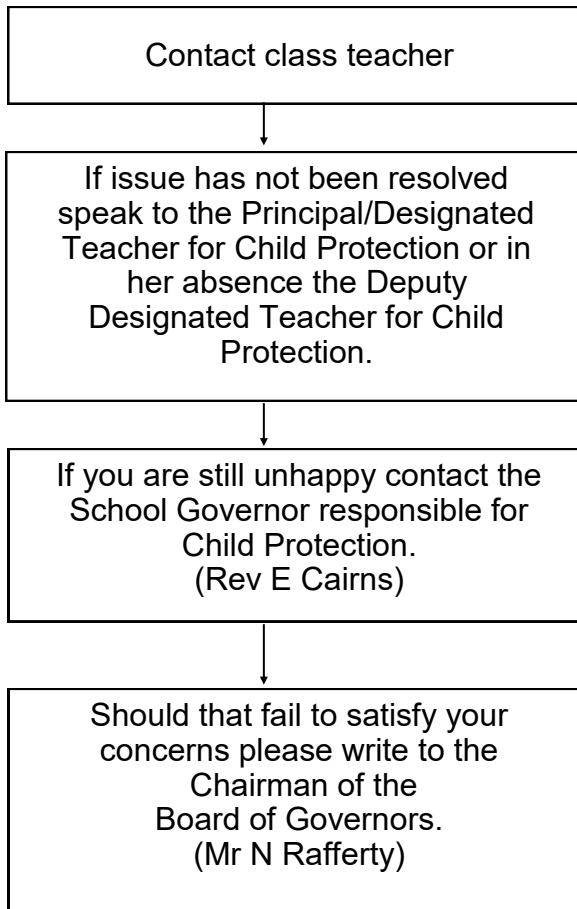
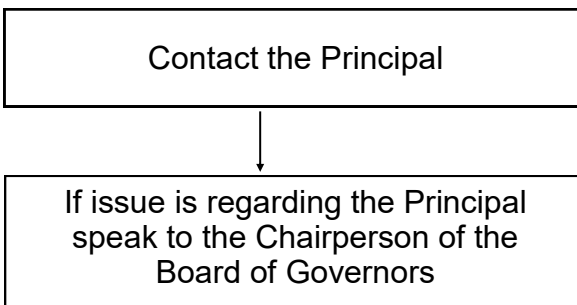


**IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD**



**IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF STAFF**



**WHAT WE, AS A SCHOOL, WILL DO IF WE HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD IN OUR CARE**

- In most situations we will discuss concerns with parents. (Unless advised otherwise).
- If concerns persist we will seek advice from the Designated Officer for Child Protection in the Education Authority (Cathy McCann) and / or with the Chief Education Welfare Officer in Education Authority (Alex Barr).
- We will follow advice from Education Authority which may involve a referral to Social Services.

This is a brief summary of our Child Protection Policy. The full policy is available for download from our website or a printed copy is available on request from the school office.



MULLAVILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
46 MULLAVILLY ROAD  
TANDRAGEE  
BT62 2LX  
Tel: 028 3884 0911

Web-site address: [www.mullavillyps.co.uk](http://www.mullavillyps.co.uk)

**Mullavilly Primary School**



**Information for Parents , Visitors and Volunteers**

**on our**

**Child Protection Policy**

**Policy Statement**

It is the policy of our school always to act in the best interests of the children in our care. A major part of this will be to safeguard their welfare by endeavouring to protect them from neglect, physical, emotional and sexual harm, exploitation and domestic violence.

Dear Parent/Carer

In this leaflet we have summarised the main parts of our Policy Document on Child Protection. This is to acquaint you, the parent/carer, with the procedures which have been put in place to ensure that the welfare of your child/children is a vital part of our school life. The full policy on Child Protection is available from the school office and is also available to download from our school web-site [www.mullavillyps.co.uk](http://www.mullavillyps.co.uk)

We endeavour to create an atmosphere in which all children are valued and respected and one where they feel confident and secure.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr P Ritchie  
Designated Teacher

Mrs A Innocenzi  
Deputy Designated Teacher

### PRINCIPLES OF OUR POLICY

- Children have a right to be listened to and to be taken seriously.
- In any matter the welfare of the child must always be paramount. This over-rides all other considerations.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting the child and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the child's interests must always come first.

### AIMS OF OUR POLICY

- To introduce procedures in the school to deal with suspected cases of child abuse as directed by DE Legislation.
- To make staff aware of the referral procedure within the school.
- To make parents aware of the procedures set up in the school to deal with suspected cases of child abuse.

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL STAFF WITHIN THE SCHOOL

- Staff must always be mindful that they hold a position of trust and that their behaviour towards the children in their care must be appropriate.

### CHILD ABUSE IS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS

- **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.
- **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 or non contact.
- **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.
- **Exploitation** - is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person
- **Domestic Violence** - If it comes to the attention of school staff that domestic abuse is or may be a factor for a child/young person this must be passed to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher who has an obligation to share the information with Social Services.
- **ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER AND DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHER**
  - Listen to the child.
  - Support the Child
  - Seek advice from the Education Authority, Designated Officer for Child Protection.
  - Refer the case to a Senior Social Worker or Chief Education Welfare Officer.