

# **SAFEGUARDING SUMMARY POLICY FOR BANBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

## **AIMS**

This policy aims to support our responsibility of a duty of care for our pupils, which seeks to provide a caring, supportive and safe school environment. Our Safeguarding Policy also further seeks to protect our pupils against any type of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect while they are within our care. In order to safeguard the welfare of the child within our care, this policy may invoke the child protection procedures outlined below.

This policy will also ensure:

1. The implementation of procedures within the school to deal with child protection issues as directed by DENI circular 1999/10 and subsequent circulars.
2. That all staff/parents/guardians are aware of the school's child protection procedures and how they operate.
3. That there is regular training and updating of training of the Designated and Deputy Designated teacher for child protection as well as whole school staff and Board of Governors training as required and as appropriate.

This policy also links with existing school policies on Pastoral Care, Anti-Bullying, Internet and Digital Technologies, Use of Reasonable Force and the school's Discipline Policy.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The safeguarding team in the school comprises of Mr Bell, Mrs Mann, Mr Waddell and Mrs Hodgett. The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Mann and the Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection are Mr Waddell and Mrs Hodgett.
2. A member of staff who has reason to suspect a child protection issue should inform the Designated Teacher immediately, or in their absence, the Deputy Designated Teachers. Relevant information should be passed on accurately, quickly and confidentially.
3. The Principal must also be informed as soon as possible.
4. If, after consultation, the Principal and Designated Teacher conclude that there are issues of a child protection nature, a referral will be made to Social Services. At this point, and if appropriate, the parent/guardian of the child will be informed of the nature of the school's concerns and that a referral is being made to Social Services.
5. The Designated Teacher will then inform the Southern Education and Library Board Designated Officer for Child Protection of the school's concerns, and the action that has been taken, also forwarding a copy of the referral made to Social Services. The School expects that under agreed multi-agency protocols that if the referral is deemed

as appropriate, the school will be informed within seven days of the allocated social worker.

6. Where an issue of child protection is identified by or disclosed to other professionals working with pupils in the school, they must inform the school's Designated Teacher immediately.
7. If a complaint of a child protection nature is made by a pupil against a member of staff the Principal must be informed immediately. The above procedures will apply (except if the complaint is against the Principal). Where the matter is referred to Social Services the school may invoke a cautionary suspension on the member of staff against whom the complaint was made, pending investigation by Social Services.
8. If the complaint is against the Principal, the Designated Teacher must be informed. They will inform the Chair of the Board of Governors and together they will ensure the necessary action is taken.

## **MONITORING**

This policy will be monitored by the Designated Teacher. Reviews of the policy and its associated procedures will be undertaken through the pastoral structure of the school with changes subject to approval by the Board of Governors, usually every three years or as is appropriate.

## **EVALUATION**

Changes to the policy and its operations will be subject to the process of monitoring, appropriate or necessary changes required as the policy operates, or when additional guidance and direction is given.

Reviewed: June 2011

A copy of the full-policy is available from the school office on request.