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## COMPLAINTS AGAINST STAFF

If a complaint about possible child abuse is made against a member of staff the same procedures will apply.

If a complaint concerns the Designated Teacher, the Chairman of the Board of Governors will be informed immediately by the Deputy Designated Teacher and will assume responsibility of the procedures. The same procedures will apply if the complaint concerns the Deputy Designated Teacher.

He/she will work with the Chairman of the Board of Governors and the Designated Governor for Child Protection issues.

### If I have a concern about a/my child's safety:

- I can speak to my child's Form Tutor.
- If I am still concerned I can contact Miss Thompson or Mr Maginnis immediately:  
Telephone No: 028 9187 2361
- If I am still concerned I can write directly to the Chairman of the Board of Governors,  
*Nendrum College, Darragh Road, Comber, Newtownards BT23 5BX*
- At any time I can talk to the Duty Social Worker at:
  - ~ *Gateway Service:*  
*Tel No: 0300 1000 300;*
  - ~ or telephone my local Police Station and ask for the CARE Unit.

*NB. This is a synopsis of our Child Protection Policy. The full Child Protection Policy may be viewed on our school website or at the school by prior arrangement with the Principal.*

**Nendrum**  
**College**  
COMBER



**CHILD  
PROTECTION**

***A Guide for Parent(s)/Guardian(s)***

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## CHILD PROTECTION

The purpose of the following procedures on Child Protection is to protect all young people at Nendrum College.

- The welfare of each child in our care is paramount.
- Everyone who is employed in the school has clear guidelines on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.
- Child abuse in any form will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school.

### DESIGNATED TEACHER for Child Protection:

Miss Thompson

### DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHER for Child Protection:

Mr Maginnis

### DEFINITION of CHILD ABUSE

“Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings, . . . by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them.”

Source : ACPC Regional Policy and Procedure Chapter 2

## CATEGORIES of CHILD ABUSE

### NEGLECT

- Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child’s physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to cause significant harm.
- It may involve failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision.
- It may also include non-organic failure to thrive.

### PHYSICAL INJURY

- Physical abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering.
- This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocation, confinement to a room, or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

### SEXUAL ABUSE

- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts.
- They may include non contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

### EMOTIONAL

- Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on a child’s emotional development.
- It may involve conveying to a child that he/she is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as he/she meets the needs of another person.

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

- “Threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation.

No list of symptoms can be exhaustive. Also, it must always be remembered that alternative medical, psychological or social explanations may exist for the signs and symptoms described above.

## PROCEDURES

- If a pupil makes a disclosure or if anyone working in the school has concerns about a child, they must act promptly.
- The person receiving the complaint or report will follow the recommended guidelines when listening and talking to a child disclosing information.
- Report details to the Designated Teacher or Deputy immediately.
- Consider the need for immediate safeguarding of child at risk.
- Ensure a record of details is kept.
- The Designated Teacher and Deputy Teacher decide if additional information is required and contact EA Child Protection Officers. A referral to Social Services may be required. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be consulted as soon as possible (unless a parent/guardian is implicated).

The school does not investigate any child protection issues; this is the role of Social Services or the PSNI.

It should be noted that information related to possible child abuse issues cannot be held in confidence. The safety of the child is our priority and information may be shared with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be informed.