



LAGAN COLLEGE BELFAST

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Document Reviewed:	May 2022 by D Collins, VP Pastoral
Date Ratified by BOG:	February 2017
Review Date:	May 2023

Overview

We in Lagan College have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our pastoral care policy, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment, valuing individuals for their unique talents and abilities, in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential. One way in which we seek to protect our pupils is by helping them learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe. To this end guidance is printed in each pupil's student planner.

Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (DHSSPS, March 2016) states that,

*"... **safeguarding is more than child protection. Safeguarding begins with promotion and preventative activity which enables children and young people to grow up safely and securely in circumstances where their development and wellbeing is not adversely affected. It includes support to families and early intervention to meet the needs of children and continues through to child protection. Child protection refers specifically to the activity that is undertaken to protect individual children or young people who are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm**".*

This policy links with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by taking into consideration the below articles of the UNCRC.

Article 19: Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 20: Children who cannot be looked after by own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

Article 25: Children who are looked after by their local authority, rather than their parents, should have their situation reviewed regularly.

Article 32: The government should provide ways of protecting children from work that is dangerous, or might harm their health or their education.

Article 34: The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

Article 36: Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

Article 39: Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect.

All our staff and volunteers are subject to appropriate background checks. The staff of our school have also adopted a Code of Practice for our behaviour towards pupils. Guidelines for staff are set out in the Staff Handbook. The purpose of the following procedures on Child Protection is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school - teachers, support staff and volunteers - has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child, and the welfare of each child is our paramount consideration. The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school, and we know that some forms of child abuse are also a criminal offence.

Managing Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools

Everyone in education plays a part in keeping children and young people safe from harm and abuse.

All Lagan College staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have a responsibility to ensure the protection and welfare of children is paramount. This also extends to any volunteers accepted to work in the school during school hours when pupils are on the premises.

Role of the Safeguarding Team

In the best interests of the children, and as a support for the Designated Teachers, Lagan College has a Safeguarding Team. The team members are listed below:

Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Miss Danielle Collins	Vice Principal (Pastoral Care)
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Mrs Amanda McNamee Mrs Lisa Grant Mrs Laura Mulholland Mr Simon Hare Mrs Una Walters Mrs Deborah Carlisle	Principal Head of Junior School Head of Senior School Head of Sixth Form Head of Additional Educational Needs Head of Learning Recovery

SAFEGUARDING TEAM 2020/2021

Miss D Collins
Designated Teacher
Vice Principal (Pastoral)
dcollins764@c2ken.net

Mrs A McNamee
Deputy Designated Teacher
Principal
amcnamee886@c2ken.net

Mrs U Walters
Deputy Designated Teacher
Head of Additional Needs
uwalters695@c2ken.net

Mrs L Grant
Deputy Designated Teacher
Head of Junior School
lgrant328@c2ken.net

Mrs D Carlisle
Deputy Designated Teacher
Head of Learning Recovery
dcarlisle135@c2ken.net

Mrs L Mulholland
Deputy Designated Teacher
Head of Senior School
lmulholland477@c2ken.net

Mr S Hare
Deputy Designated Teacher
Head of Sixth Form
share505@c2ken.net

UT SINT UNUM

Parents and Carers

The primary responsibility for safeguarding and protection of children rests with parents who should feel confident about raising any concerns that have in relation to their child. As part of the on-going work of fostering trust and good relationships with parents/carers, Lagan College will work with parents/carers to understand the responsibility of the College for the welfare of all the children and young people in its charge.

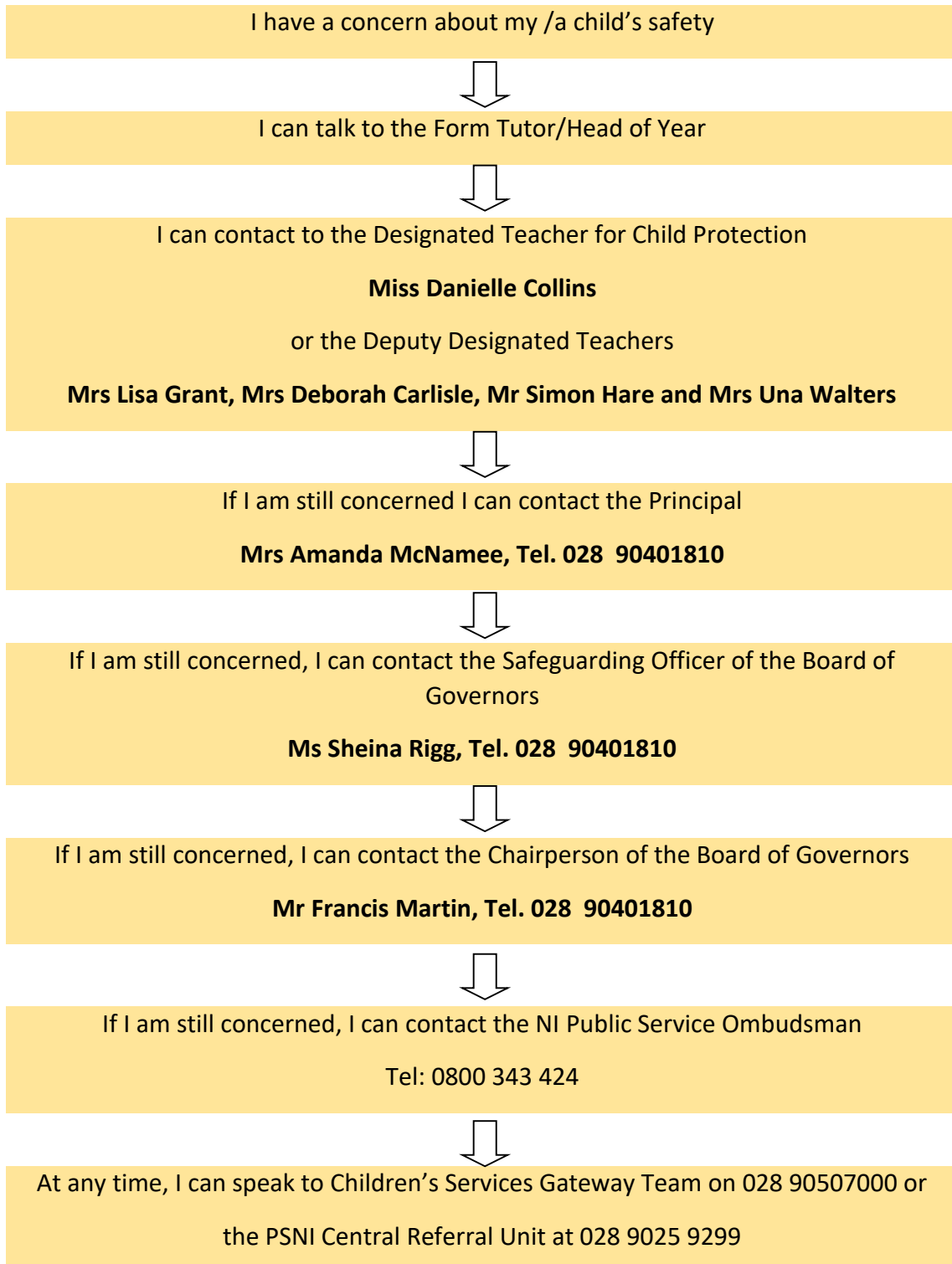
Lagan College recognises that the student's welfare is paramount, however, good child protection practice and outcome relies on a positive, open and honest working partnership with parents/carers. We will ensure that all parent/carers are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents/carers rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission to do so or it is necessary to do so in order to protect a student.

We will share any concerns we may have about their children with them unless to do so may place the student at risk of harm. We encourage parents/carers to discuss any concerns they may have with the relevant Year Head or Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

Parents/Carers are required to inform the school:

- If the child has a medical condition or educational need.
- If there are any Court Orders relating to the safety or wellbeing of a parent or child.
- If there is any change in a child's circumstances for example - change of address, change of contact details, change of name, change of parental responsibility.
- Parents should contact the school if their child is absent and send in a note on the child's return to school. This assures the school that the parent/carer knows about the absence. More information on parental responsibility can be found on the EA website at: www.eani.org.uk/schools/safeguarding-and-child-protection/
- It is essential that the school has up to date contact details for the parent/carer.

If a parent/carer has a potential child protection concern:



Actions in Response to Abuse

One or more of the following actions will be effected, as appropriate to specific concerns in response to reported abuse;

- The teacher and/or Designated Teacher will talk further with the young person in an attempt to reassure him/her and simply clarify and record what has happened (this will not involve detailed investigation or interpretation and no promise of confidentiality will be given);
- The Designated Teacher, in consultation with the Principal, will decide whether, in the best interest of the young person, the matter needs to be referred to Social Services or the PSNI. If there are concerns that a young person may be at risk of significant harm, the school is obliged to make a referral to Social Services. Whilst it is good practice to share with a family the school's intention to make a referral to Social Services or the PSNI about the student's welfare, it is not a prerequisite. In some circumstances the school should inform the family about the referral. For example, where evidence of abuse is likely to be removed or where a student will be placed at risk when parents/carers have this knowledge;
- Child Protection information will be shared on a 'need to know' basis only. The Designated Teacher, in liaison with the Principal, will decide which information needs to be shared, when and with whom. The primary purpose of confidentiality in this context is to safeguard and promote the young person's welfare.

All students are made aware of who the Designated Teachers for Child Protection are and Child Protection/Safeguarding information and guidance is also included in the Student Learning Planners.

Contacts

- Child Protection Support Service for Schools (CPSSS)
Education Authority (South Eastern Region)
 - Tel: 028 9056 6900, Head of CPSSS – Anne Mallaghan
 - Tel: 028 9056 6434 - Designated Teacher for CP - Colum Boal
 - Tel: 028 9056 6434 - Designated Teacher for CP - Alison Casey
 - Tel: 028 9056 6434 - Designated Teacher for CP - Heather Grimason
- Social Services - Gateway Services/Child Protection
South Eastern HSC Trust
 - Tel: 03001 000 300
 - Tel: 028 9504 9999 (out of hours)
- North Down Gateway Team - James Street, Newtownards, BT23 4EP
 - Tel: 028 9181 8518
 - Tel: 028 9056 5444 (out of hours)
- PSNI - Tel: 028 9065 0222 - Central Exchange

- Tel: 0845 600 8000 - Public Protection Unit (ask for the PPU in your area)

- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>
 - Tel: 03000 200 190
- Safeguarding Board for NI - www.safeguardingni.org

Child Support Contacts	
Child Care (NI): 028 9065 2713 Kidscape: 020 7730 3300 NSPCC - Tel: 028 9035 1135 - CP Helpline: 0808 800 5000 - www.nspcc.org.uk	Childline 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk Children's Law Centre: 028 9024 5704 Barnardos Childcare Office: 02890672366 Save the Children: 028 9043 1123 Youthnet: 028 9033 1880
Online Support Services	
www.thinkuknow.co.uk www.ceop.police.uk	www.safenetwork.org.uk

Anxiety, Depression and Stress	Family & Childcare
Aware Defeat Depression: 028 90321734 Aware Helpline: 0845 120 2961	Parents Advice Centre: 028 9031 0891 Gingerbread NI: 028 90231 417
Bereavement	Suicide/Self Harm
CRUSE Bereavement Care: 028 9043 4600 CRUSE Helpline: 0870 167 1677 Young Peoples Helpline: 0808 800 1677	Samaritans: 028 9066 4422 Samaritans Helpline: 0845 7909 090
Eating Disorders	Mental Health
Eating Disorders Association: 028 9023 5959	NI Association of Mental Health: 028 90328474
Relationships, Sexuality & Sexual Health Support	Substance Misuse Services
Relate: 0870 242 6091 Cara Friend – Gay Helpline: 028 9032 2023 Cara Friend – Lesbian Helpline: 028 9023 8668 The Rainbow Project: 028 9031 9030 FPA: 028 9032 5488	AA Central: 028 9043 4848 Al-Anon and Alateen: 028 9068 2368 National Drugs Helpline: 0800 776600 ASCERT: 028 9260 4422

Conclusion

It would be impossible and inappropriate to lay down hard and fast rules to cover all the circumstances in which staff interrelate with children and young people, or where opportunities for their conduct to be misconstrued might occur.

In all circumstances, employees' professional judgement will be exercised and for the vast majority of employees this Code of Conduct will serve only to confirm what has always been their practice. If employees have any doubts about points in this code, or how they should act in particular circumstances, they should consult their line manager or a representative of their professional association.

From time to time, however, it is prudent for all staff to re-appraise their teaching styles, relationships with children/young people and their manner and approach to individual children/young people, to ensure that they give no grounds for doubt about their intentions, in the minds of colleagues, of children/young people or their parents /guardians.

We make parents/carers aware of our Child Protection policy by providing a summary copy of the policy at point of entry into the College (usually in Year 8) and every two years thereafter. The full Safeguarding Policy is also available on request. The school will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents/carers about their children. This policy is a working document and will be reviewed annually. The information within this policy was correct as of June 2022.

A full LCB Safeguarding Policy is available from the office on request