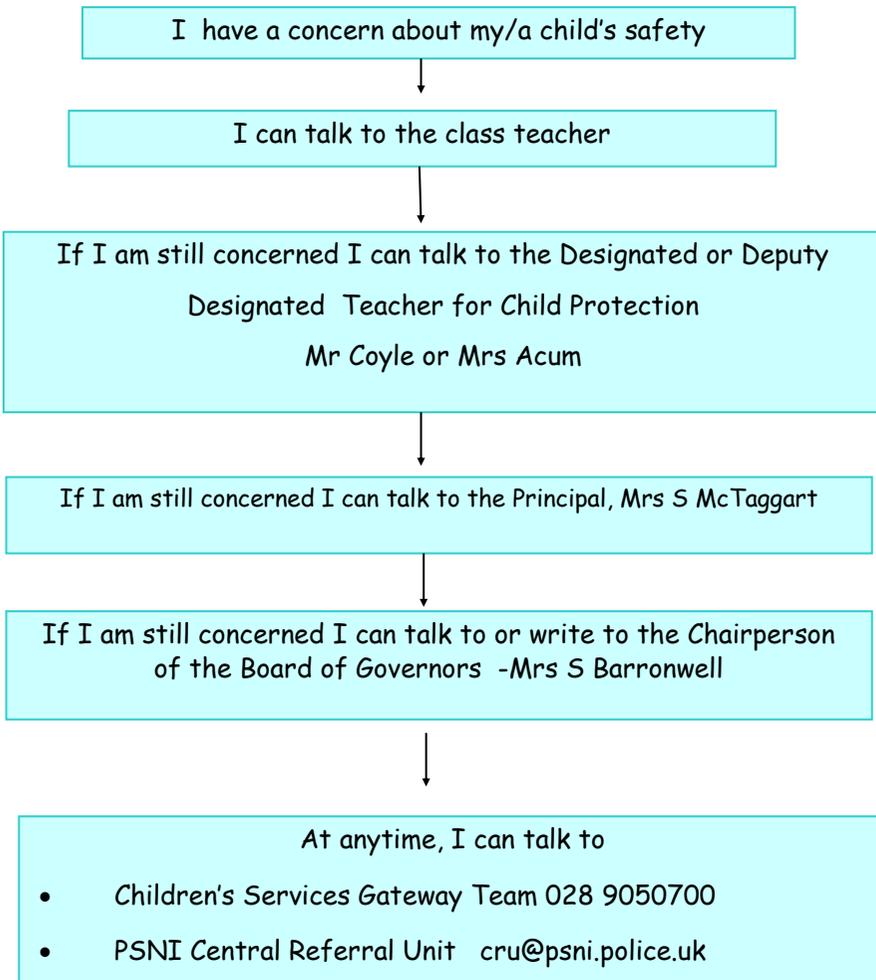


HOW A PARENT/CARER CAN RAISE A CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN



Summary of St Therese of Lisieux Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

If you have escalated your concern as set out in the above flowchart, and are of the view that it has not been addressed satisfactorily, you may revert to the school's complaints policy. This policy should culminate in the option for you to contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) who has the legislative power to investigate your complaint. If you have a concern about a child's safety or suspect child abuse within the local community, it should be brought directly to the attention of the Children's Services Gateway Team.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Summary

The overruling concern of all adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the children.

The Children (NI) Order 1995 places duties on a number of agencies, including Boards of Governors, to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. The central thrust of the Order is that the welfare of the child must be of paramount importance and that schools have a pastoral responsibility towards the children in their charge and should take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved. Schools are obliged to notify the authorities of alleged child abuse.

The Board of Governors, Principal and Safeguarding Team take seriously their primary responsibility for the safety and welfare of the children and staff in St Therese of Lisieux School.

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.

Safeguarding and Child Protection is an essential part of St Therese of Lisieux School's Pastoral Care Policies. It is a framework for an agreed course of action.

The aims of this policy are:

- To create a safe and secure environment for all members of the school community.
- To develop the children's skills in self protection 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.

Although child protection and safeguarding is the responsibility of all who work in our school we have a specially trained Designated Teacher and Deputy-Designated Teacher to manage procedures in the event of a child or adult confiding information to a member of staff, or if a member of staff sees signs or observes behaviour which cause them concerns.

Designated Teacher for Child Protection –Mr F Coyle

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection –Mrs P Acum

Designated Governor for Child Protection –Ms M McTaggart

All staff who receive sensitive information about children or their families, are aware that such information is confidential, and is not to be made the subject of general conversation, or disclosed to others outside the school other than statutory officials. Within the school, information is shared 'on a need to know' basis. When children leave our school records are maintained/shared as required by law.

The full Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy may be accessed on the school website <https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/our-school/policies/> or a copy may be requested from reception staff.