

Child Protection at Rockport School – Information for Parents



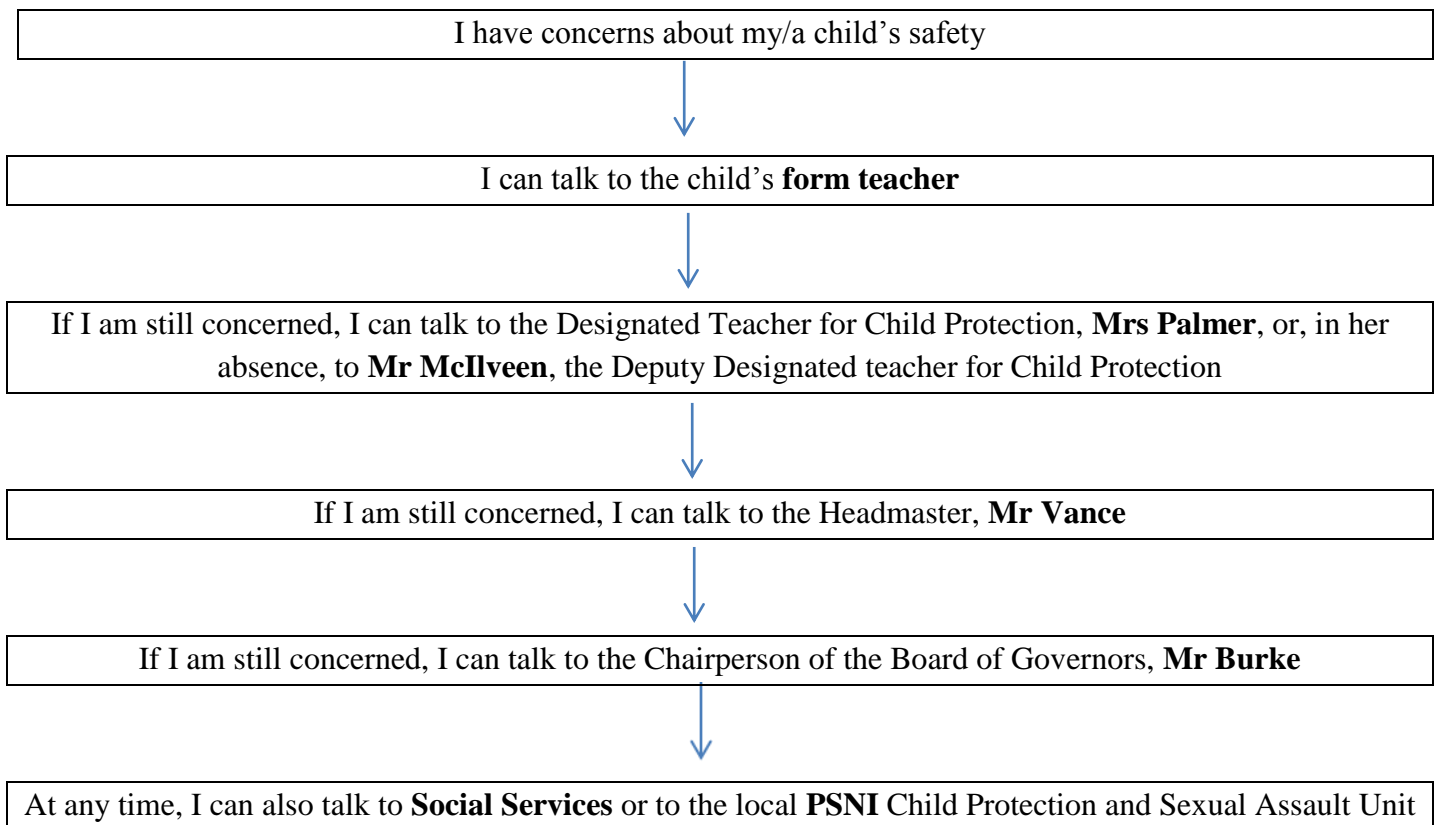
The staff of Rockport School have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of all pupils in our charge. We carry out this duty through our pastoral care policy, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment for all children. The purpose of a Child Protection Policy is to protect our pupils and ensure that everyone who works in our school has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. All staff members of Rockport School receive Child Protection Training every year and are aware of the codes and procedures to which we as a school adhere.

Categories of Abuse

Abuse may take many forms, including:

1. **Neglect** – the failure to protect a children from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation, a persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, which may result in the significant impairment of the child’s health or development
2. **Physical Abuse** – actual or deliberate physical injury to a child or wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury and suffering to a child
3. **Sexual Abuse** – actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child, including children and adolescents in sexual activities, which they do not truly comprehend or acts which violate the social taboos of family roles.
4. **Emotional Abuse** – emotional ill treatment or rejection which may result in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child.

How a parent may make their concerns know to the school



This information is contained on our school website, along with a copy of the Child Protection Policy, under the section entitled Pastoral Care.

In Rockport School, we operate a positive approach to pastoral care, and therefore would encourage all parents to share the responsibility of creating a safe environment for our pupils, so that proactive steps can be taken. The school is committed to taking all concerns seriously and issues will be treated with the utmost appropriate confidentiality.

Records of all conversations will be kept and a discrete preliminary clarification exercise will take place. Members of staff and professionals will only be informed on a need to know basis. The person approached will report back on the progress of the concern, although confidential matters will not be disclosed.

Contact numbers:

Rockport School – 028 90 428372

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Newtownards – 028 91816666

PSNI Child Protection and Sexual Assault Units – 0845 6008000