

BELFAST ROYAL ACADEMY

BEN MADIGAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. The school acknowledges its pastoral responsibility towards the children and young people in its charge and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.
2. All members of the teaching and non-teaching staff are alerted to signs of possible abuse, including neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. They have guidance and advice about appropriate procedures to follow.
3. Preliminary responses are made carefully and sensitively, but confidentiality will be subordinate to the need to protect the interests of the pupil.
4. Suspicions of abuse are reported to the Principal and referred to the social services of the local Health and Social Services Trust. Where physical or sexual abuse is suspected or alleged, the referral is to the Police. The Chairman of the Board of Governors is also notified.
5. The School has appointed a “designated teacher” {and a replacement in the event of absence} who ensures the effective implementation of its policy. These members of staff are respectively Mrs V M McCaig, Principal and Mr W T Wilson, Vice- Principal.