

## **Information for Parents on Child Protection**

North Coast Integrated College would like to inform parents that, consistent with the aims and objectives of the College, all members of staff in North Coast Integrated College have a duty to help protect children from abuse or the risk of abuse, and that a Child Protection Policy is in place. This policy forms part of the College's overall Pastoral Care Policy, and parents can obtain a complete copy by request or view it on the College website, [www.ncic.org.uk](http://www.ncic.org.uk).

All matters of policy are based on the school's understanding of DENI Circular 1999/10, "Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection", and all procedures have been adopted from the Northern Area Child Protection Committee's handbook, "Regional Policy and Procedures".

## **Guiding Principles**

- The welfare of the child is Paramount (Children (NI) Order 1995) and Co-operating to Safeguard Children (2003).
- North Coast Integrated College takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the welfare of its children and young people is safeguarded and their safety preserved.
- All members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are fully vetted before taking up their post within the College. All volunteers, and members of the Board of Governors are also subject to the same vetting procedures.
- The College has designated a safeguarding team with special responsibility for child protection. The safeguarding team comprises :
  - Mrs Eileen Casson - designated teacher for child protection
  - Mr Jim Frizelle – Principal and deputy designated teacher
  - Mrs Gillian Maguire – deputy designated teacher, and
  - Mr Paul Mullan – Pastoral Vice Principal

This information can be found in your child's homework diary.

- All children know that they can speak to any member of the safeguarding team, if they have a concern either for themselves, or for any other student at the College. If you, as a parent, have a concern about the safety of your child, or any other child at the College, you can contact Mrs Casson, Mr Frizelle or Mrs Maguire to pass on your concerns.
- If you, as a parent, have a complaint against a member of staff you can contact the Principal, Mr Jim Frizelle. If the complaint involves Mr Frizelle, you can contact Mrs Eileen Casson or Mrs Doreen Bacon, Chairperson of the Board of Governors. Contact details can be found on the College website.

- The College has set in place procedures to be followed where the College has been alerted to possible abuse, based on the guidance given by the Area Child Protection Committee and North Eastern Education and Library Board.
- All staff, teaching and non-teaching, have been made aware of the signs of possible abuse, and of the procedures to be followed, and will be encouraged to be alert to any signs of abuse. **No concern about a child's welfare will be ignored.**

### **Support Services**

Some victims of abuse find it impossible to talk about their problems to any familiar adult, and signs giving rise to concerns which might prompt gentle questioning are not always apparent. Some pupils may feel more comfortable in talking to someone on the telephone. The College can facilitate this by displaying numbers and websites on noticeboards to make pupils aware of local or national helplines. Details of useful local and national helplines, and website addresses, are also included in your child's homework diary.

**New Life Counselling** provides the College with a counsellor (Thomas Marron) who visits the College each Thursday morning. Students can self-refer to speak with the counsellor by putting their name into the self-referral box which can be located on the wall, on the staff room corridor. Staff, and parents, may also recommend that a student speaks to the counsellor, but it must be understood that the student's participation should be voluntary.

**NNELB** also provide a **youth worker** (Jim Mc Cartney) who is also available to discuss issues around self-esteem, anger management, group relationships etc. with students on a one-to-one, and small group basis. It is primarily staff, who will refer students to the youth worker, and parental permission must be sought in advance.

### **Helpful Numbers**

**Social Services 028 70352221 OR The Gateway Team 028 70325462**

A duty social worker will be available Monday – Friday from 9am – 5pm

**Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service      028 94468833**

After 5pm each evening and all day weekends and bank holidays

**NNELB Child Protection Officer   028 94482200**

Lorraine O' Neill

Available Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm; Friday 9am – 4.45pm

**PSNI**

CARE Unit                      028 90 650 222

**CHILDLINE**                      0800 1111