



**HAZELWOOD**  
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

**CHILD  
PROTECTION**

*Information for Parents*

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*September 2020*



Dear Parent/Carer,

It is very important that you, as parent/carers of our pupils are aware of what to do should there be any concern on a young person's safety and well-being during their time at Hazelwood.

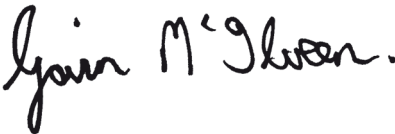
This flyer seeks to give information on:—

- a) What child protection *is*;
- b) The types of problems that need to be looked for;
- c) The 'Safeguarding Team' in Hazelwood Integrated College;
- d) Who you can contact to raise a concern;
- e) Useful contacts.

Further information can be found in the school policy for Child Protection available from the school (Telephone: 028 9077 4202) or from the College website at [www.hazelwoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.hazelwoodcollege.co.uk) (under the *Parents and Students* section).

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Yours,



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Gavin McIlveen

***Designated Teacher for Safeguarding Children***

# Introduction

In the College we seek to protect our students by helping them learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognize unwelcome behaviours in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe. The Board of Governors and Staff of Hazelwood Integrated College recognise that all staff, including volunteers has a full and active part to play in protecting pupils from harm.

## **Our Child Protection Policy:**

- Applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school.
- Seeks to safeguard and protect our students by ensuring that all who work in the school have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

## **What is Child Protection?**

*Child Protection* are the words that we use when allegations of child abuse have to be investigated. However, child protection is not just about the investigation of a specific incident in which a child/children may have been harmed. It involves a thorough assessment of the needs of children and their families so that effective help and support are provided. Help and support should enhance children's welfare as well as protecting them from significant harm.

Anyone who is worried that a child might be at risk of harm or abuse must advise the Social Services, the NSPCC or the Police. This is called a 'referral'. Referrals can come from neighbours, friends, relatives, a professional such as a teacher, nurse or doctor or the child or parents themselves. Sometimes the person making the referral may be anonymous or insist on remaining unidentified. In such instances it is not possible to disclose the source of the referral to a parent.

## **The types of problems that need to be looked for:**

We recognize broad categories which are defined as follows:-

- 1) PHYSICAL ABUSE:** is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, confinement to a room or cot, or inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.
  
- 2) EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that he is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as he meets the needs of another person. It may involve causing a child frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a child. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may expose a child to emotional abuse.
  
- 3) SEXUAL ABUSE:** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

- 4) NEGLECT:** is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision.
- 5) SELF HARM:** Whilst a child's own behaviour which places them at risk of significant harm (e.g. alcohol consumption or drug consumption) may not necessarily constitute abuse as defined for the purposes of Child Protection Procedures it is included in this policy. Such cases are often tricky and a matter for professional judgement. If in doubt consult with the designated teacher Mr McIlveen.
- 6) CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** Sexual exploitation involves an individual or group of adults taking advantage of the vulnerability of an individual or groups of children or young people, and victims can be boys or girls. Children and young people are often unwittingly drawn into sexual exploitation through the offer of friendship and care, gifts, drugs and alcohol, and sometimes accommodation.
- 7) DOMESTIC ABUSE:** Domestic abuse can happen in any relationship and may involve the female in the relationship abusing the male and it can occur when a grown up child or teenager abuses their parents or carers. Children in homes where domestic violence occurs may get hurt trying to protect their mother, father or sibling, the child may indirectly receive an injury when items are thrown or weapons used and may develop difficulties at school, absences and lack of concentration.

# The Safeguarding Team

## Who does my child contact if they have a problem or concern about another student?

Your child can speak with his/her Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the *Designated Teacher for Child Protection*, Mr Gavin McIlveen.

## Who can you contact if there is a concern about a child's safety?

- You can talk to the child's Form Tutor or *Head of Year*.
- You may also talk to a *Vice Principal*:  
Mrs Jackson (for **Junior School**: Years 8, 9 & 10),  
or Mrs Leslie (for **Senior School**: Years 11, 12, 13 & 14).
- If you are still concerned, you can talk to the *Designated Teacher for Child Protection*, Mr McIlveen — **OR**
- The *Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection*, Mrs Drennan and Mrs Robb.
- All staff can be contacted on 028 9077 4202.
- If you are still concerned, you can talk or write to the *Chairperson of the Board of Governors* Mr Trevor Parkhill at the school.
- At any time, you can write to the *Northern Health and Social Care Trust Gateway Services* or telephone 03001 234 333, *Belfast Gateway*: 028 9050 7000, or the local police.
- The school will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a pupil with their parents. This must be handled sensitively, and a member of the Safeguarding team will contact the parent in the event of a concern, suspicion or disclosure. However, if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, advice will first be sought from children's social care services and local Education Authority.
- If the College becomes aware of young people below the age of consent engaging in sexual activity or, where we have concerns about a 16/17-year-old in a sexual relationship, the Designated Teacher has a duty to share this information with Social Services.

# USEFUL CONTACTS

*Here is a list of some of the organisations who can help you with Child Protection issues:*

<b>Addiction NI</b>	<i>Help for drug and alcohol misuse: open 9:00 to 17:00 Monday to Thursday, 9:00 to 13:00 Friday</i>	028 9066 4434
<b>Childline NI</b>	<i>Confidential help, advice and guidance — <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a></i>	081/03 312 945 or 0800 1111 (Free)
<b>Children's Law Centre</b>	<i>Children's rights and Responsibilities</i>	080888 085 698 (Free)
<b>Family Support</b>	<i>Helping young people, carers and families find services to help support their needs</i>	<a href="http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk">www.familysupportni.gov.uk</a>
<b>Gateway Team (Social Services)</b>	<i>If you are concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person</i>	028 9050 7000 (Office Hours) 028 9504 9999 (Out of Hours Emergency)
<b>Hyp</b>	<i>Sexual education</i>	028 9504 9748
<b>Lifeline</b>	<i>Counselling</i>	080888 088 000
<b>New Life Counselling</b>	<i>For young people and families</i>	028 9039 1630 (Ardoyne Road) 028 9074 6184 (Duncairn Gardens)
<b>One Stop Shop</b>	<i>For 11–18 year olds to get advice on any issue</i>	028 90840555
<b>Parent Zone</b>	<i>Advice, support and parent guides for: social media, health &amp; well-being, relationships, etc.</i>	<a href="http://www.parentzone.org.uk">www.parentzone.org.uk</a>
<b>Parents' Advice Centre</b>	<i>Advice, support and guidance for parents based in Belfast, available Monday to Friday</i>	080888 010 722 (Free)
<b>Samaritans</b>	<i>For a range of services and support for mental health/relationships, etc.</i>	028 9066 4422 or 116 123 (free)
<b>The Rainbow Project</b>	<i>LGBT</i>	028 9031 9030
<b>Young Minds Parents' Helpline</b>	<i>Free, confidential support to any adult worried about the emotional, behavioural or mental health of anyone up to the age of 25</i>	0808 802 5544 (Free)