

## Bright Sparks Policy

In Bright Sparks, we aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment for all children.

It is our responsibility to ensure all individuals are protected from harm.

We recognize the rights of children as individuals and will treat them with dignity and respect.

Any concerns of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone in our school.

All schools are required by law to have a child protection and pastoral care policy and to communicate this to parents.



Detailed policy documents are available on request, on the parents table or to download from the school website.

## Staffing Structure

In school you may speak about a concern to any of the following members of staff who have been specially trained in Child Protection issues.



**Mrs McClenaghan**  
Head of Pre-School  
Designated Child  
Protection Officer



**Mrs Montgomery**  
Designated Teacher



**Mrs Skarmoutsos**  
Deputy  
Designated Teacher

## What is Child Abuse?

Abuse can take the following forms:

**Neglect** - the persistent or significant neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development.

**Physical** - injury to a child, whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

**Sexual** - the sexual exploitation of a child or young person for an adult's sexual gratification; the involvement of children or young people in sexual activities of any kind (including exposure to pornography) which they do not understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate normal family roles.

**Emotional** - persistent or significant emotional ill treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child.

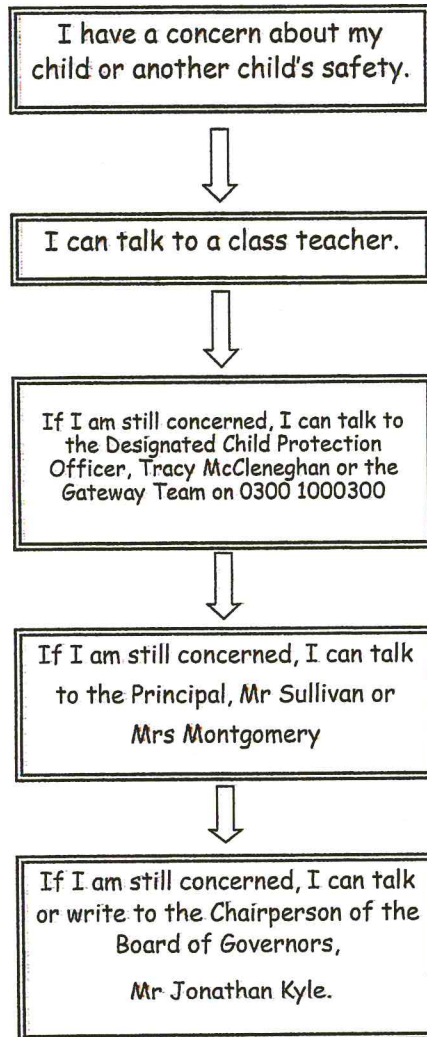
## Procedures for Reporting Suspected or Disclosed Child Abuse

If, at any time, a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff that gives rise to concerns about possible harm, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, the member of staff will act immediately and the following procedures will be applied.

- S/he will speak to Tracy McClenaghan or the Designated Teacher for Child Protection in the first instance.
- Tracy will discuss any concerns with Mr. Sullivan, Principal or Mrs. Montgomery.
- If appropriate, a referral will be made immediately to Social Services, Gateway Team.

**Where a disclosure of abuse is made, the school is legally obliged to refer the matter to Social Services immediately.**

## How Can a Parent Express Concern?



Bright Sparks Pre-School  
Crawfordsburn Primary School  
4 Cootehall Road  
Crawfordsburn  
Bangor  
BT19 1JA

Bright Sparks: 07547 457 473  
[brightsparkscps@gmail.com](mailto:brightsparkscps@gmail.com)

School : 02891 853641  
[info@crawfordsburnps.bangor.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@crawfordsburnps.bangor.ni.sch.uk)

# Bright Sparks

## A Guide For Parents



## Child Protection