



GAELSCOIL CHNOC na RÉ

Baile Uí Dhúgáin (Ballydoogan) - Sligeach

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Polasaí Chaomhnú Páistí (2015) – Child Protection Policy (2015)

Introduction

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. Accordingly, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré has agreed the following child protection policy:

The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools as part of this overall child protection policy. The Board nominates

Mícheál Ó Broin

as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

and Dara Ní Chléirigh

as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP)

Role of the Board of Management

It is the primary responsibility of the Board of Management to protect the children within the school to whom they have a duty of care. The responsibilities of the BoM are outlined in p.50/51 of the Children First Guidelines and in p. 15/17 of the Child protection Guidelines (DES)

- *Planning and implementing a Child Protection programme*
- *Staff Development*
- *Appointing a Designated Liaison Person and a deputy Designated Liaison Person*
- *Prevent child abuse*
- *Respond to allegations/suspensions of child abuse involving employees*
- *Invoke administrative leave of employee if the nature of the allegation warrants immediate action*
- *Monitor and evaluate the programme and policy*

Role of the Staff

The responsibilities of the staff are as outlined in the Revised Children First Guidelines and the Child Protection Guidelines (DES)

- *Teaching of the Child Protection Programme- Stay Safe*
- *Informing the DLP as appropriate*
- *Recording of and responding to allegations of child abuse as recommended in the Child Protection Guidelines*
- *Monitoring the progress of pupils about whom we may have concerns and who may be at risk in a manner consistent with our duty as teachers. These records are maintained confidentially.*
- *For eg.*

Registration number of Pupil_____

Date_____

Observation_____

Signature_____

- *It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the children under their care at any given time are kept as safe as possible.*

Role of the DLP

- *The DLP will ensure that all staff are aware of the procedures and guidelines and attend any further training, if provided.*
- *The DLP will ensure that each member of staff has a copy of this policy on Child Protection*
- *The DLP will ensure that parents are informed of school procedures at enrolment after registering their child in our school.*

Additional Considerations

1. *Visitors, volunteers and 3rd level students to the school are not to be left alone with our pupils. The class teacher/another teacher will be present with them at all times.*
2. *In the case of SNAs, they too will be made aware of the child protection guidelines and the policy of this school.*
3. *With regard to children with special needs, if they require intimate care, procedures involved in such care will be agreed in consultation with the pupil, his/her parents/guardians and any other personnel involved in the care of the pupil. This will be in keeping with best practice and the best interests of the child and with due consideration to maintaining the child's personal dignity. Such procedures, when agreed, will be communicated to all parties involved and put on record.*
4. *Where one to one teaching takes place, (Learning support etc) it will be done in a place where the teacher and child can be observed by others.**It is recommended that if possible children are not be taken on their own.***
5. *It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure that the children under their care are kept as safe as possible.*

Organisational and Curricular Issues:

We contribute to the prevention of Child abuse through the SPHE curriculum, Stay Safe programme and the Relationships and Sexuality (RSE) programme. Any additional resources selected will be in keeping with the aims of this policy.

If parents wish to withdraw their children for the duration of the lessons they may be collected by their parents at a scheduled time and returned to the class when the lesson is over. In a multi class situation, the younger class will be withdrawn when topics taught are not age-appropriate.

In the case that matters of a confidential nature are discussed in the classroom, the school cannot accept responsibility for how this information might be discussed outside of the classroom situation. The school cannot guarantee confidentiality if a child asks a question of a personal nature or discloses personal information.

All children with special needs are included and participate in the SPHE programme with their own classes. Teachers will adapt and modify activities so that all children can participate. The learning support/resource teachers will supplement the work of the class teachers where necessary.

The methodologies and approaches used will be as recommended in the SPHE curriculum; ie, active learning, talk and discussion, problem-solving, etc.

Parents are invited to view the Curriculum through links on the school website or otherwise and may speak to the class teacher if they have any concerns.

Best Practice

In its policies, practices and activities, Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will

- *recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;*
- *fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters*
- *adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;*
- *develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children and*
- *fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.*

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

In tandem with our Child Protection Policy, we will have other policies which are relevant to Child Protection and keeping the children safe at all times: Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Pupil Attendance Policy, Health and Safety Statement, School tours, Supervision of pupils, Sporting activities, Swimming and yard procedures etc

The Board will ensure that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.

This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents' Association and is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management every school year.

Ghlac an Bord Bainistíochta leis an bpolasaí seo ar an ____lá de mhí _____ 20__

Siniú: _____
Cathaoirleach an Bhoird Bainistíochta

Siniú: _____
Príomh-Oide

Dáta: _____

Dáta: _____

Dáta an chéad athbhreithniú eile: _____

