

Child Protection Policy of St. Mary's N.S.

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 St. Mary's N.S. has agreed the following child protection policy:

1. 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.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Dónal Ó hÓbáin-Principal.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mr. James Walsh-Deputy Principal.
4. In its policies, practices and activities, St. Mary's N.S. 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 risk 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.
 - Child Protection is a heading and topic on all staff meeting and Board of Management agendas under "Principal's report".
 - staff are sent on training courses as they arise and as they are offered to the school.
 - all teachers are given a copy of "Definitions and Reporting Procedures" (part two pages 31-36) and "Signs and Symptoms of Abuse" (appendix part six pages 125-131) both taken from "Children First".
 - a file is kept by the Principal of all referrals made to the Health Services Executive.
 - The school has a policy of co-operating fully with the Health Services Executive and the Gardai. The school also expects to receive the full co-operation of these agencies in child protection issues.
 - all staff, teaching, non teaching and ancillary staff have been made aware of the reporting procedures i.e. report to the Designated Liaison Person should they have any concerns about child protection.

5. The following Policies and Practice constitute very important elements in our overall policy of protecting our children. Namely (1) Code of Behaviour, (2) Anti Bullying, (3) Acceptable use of I.T. (4) Supervision practices. The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above listed items.
6. 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.
7. This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Principal

Date of next review: _____