

Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire

Child Protection Policy

Philosophy

In line with the ethos of our school our aim is to provide a safe environment for teaching and learning. **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 Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire has agreed the following child protection policy:**

Educational Provision

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. Education for children will be provided through the SPHE curriculum using Stay Safe as the resource.

Management of Issues

We as a school community are aware of the "Children First" National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and of the "Child Protection" Guidelines and Procedures published by the Department of Education and Science.

It is the policy of Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire to implement these guidelines fully and without modification .

The Board of Management has appointed the principal (Ann McMahon) as the designated liaison person and the deputy principal (Mary Rockett) as the deputy liaison person.

Should the DLP need to consult with a parent in line with procedures as laid down in the guidelines we recommend that another member of staff be also present.

In its policies, practices and activities, Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire . 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 minimize 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.

The following school policies, practices and activities are particularly relevant to child protection:

Code of Behaviour; Anti-bullying Policy; Pupil Attendance Policy; Supervision of Pupils; School Outings; Sporting Activities; Certain Curriculum Subjects-PE, SPHE, Drama, Stay Safe Programme; Visiting Teachers and Student Teachers; Internet Usage.

The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices are in place in respect of the above listed items.

6. This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents Council 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

The following applies to our school

- Toileting children
 - For children with special needs....two members of staff to assist child if necessary,
 - For young children who may have “toilet accidents”contact parent immediately
- One to one teaching – Door to remain open during session
- Garda vetting will be sought for any volunteers at our school
- Swimming – request supervision from staff at pool and where possible, male and female staff members and/or parents to accompany children to pool

Ongoing training and staff development

- **Staff** needs will be assessed at the beginning of each academic year and the facilities of the local education centre will be used. We will avail of support provided for staff, parents and B.O.M.
- **Parents Association** will be encouraged to support the process by providing ongoing information to members and providing facilities to discuss child protection issues.

Review and Evaluation

- Policy will be reviewed in line with other SPHE policies.
- Should the school need to use reporting procedures there will be an evaluation of the process to assess its effectiveness and to inform further use of the process.

Ratified by the BOM on November 25th 2011

Signed: _____ (Chairperson, BOM) _____ (principal)

Date: 25th November 2011

Reviewed June 2017