

Child Protection Policy of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Inchicore November 2022

1. The Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál 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 David Gough (Principal)

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is Paul Davis (Deputy Principal)

4. In all its policies, practices and activities Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál 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 procedures to minimise the possibilities 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 pupil with a special vulnerability.

5. Policies, practices and activities

The following areas have been considered by the staff and BOM of the school as areas of specific concern in relation to child protection. Following discussion and consultation the staff and BOM have agreed that the following practices be adopted.

A) Physical contact

Physical contact between school personnel and the child should always be in response to the needs of the child and not the needs of the adult. While physical contact may be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child the following should be factors in determining its appropriateness:

- It is acceptable to the child
- It is open and not secretive
- The age and developmental stage of the child

N.B. School personnel should avoid doing anything of a personal nature for children that they can do themselves.

B) Visitors/Guest Speakers

Visitors/ guest speakers should never be left alone with pupils. The school (principal/ teachers) has a responsibility to check out the credentials of the visitor/guest speaker and to ensure that the material in use by the guest is appropriate.

C) Children with specific toileting/intimate care needs

In all situations where a pupil needs assistance with toileting/intimate care needs a meeting will be convened, after enrolment and before the child starts school, between parents/guardians, class teacher, SNA, principal and if appropriate the pupil. The purpose of the meeting will be to ascertain the specific needs of the child and to determine how the school can best meet those needs. The staff to be involved in this care need will be identified and provision will be made for occasions when the particular staff member involved is unavailable. A written copy of what has been agreed will be made and kept in the child's file. Two members of staff will be present when dealing with intimate care/toileting needs. Any deviation from the agreed procedure will be recorded and notified to the DLP and the parents/guardians.

D) Toileting accidents

Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the hall and a pack left in each junior corridor classroom so that, if a pupil has an 'accident' of this nature, there will be fresh clothing for them to change into. If the pupil cannot clean or change themselves, the child will be assisted by members of staff known to the child. Two members of staff will be present. A record of all such incidents will be kept in an intimate care notebook and principal and parents will be notified afterwards.

E) One-to-one teaching

It is the policy in this school that one-to-one teaching is often in the best interest of the child. Every effort will be made to ensure that this teaching takes place in an open environment. Work carried out by SNAs will be carried out under the direction of the class teacher in an open environment.

F) Changing for swimming/sport

Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for swimming/sport. Where assistance is needed, this will be done in the communal areas and with the consent of the parents/guardians. In such situations where privacy is required by the child the parent/guardian of the child may be asked to assist.

We will make every effort to have male and female staff supervising at all times. Only in exceptional circumstances will a female member of staff enter the male changing area or a male member of staff enter the female changing area. In this event a full report will be given to the Principal.

G) Leaving children home

The BOM emphasises to parents the importance of collecting their children after extra curricular activities or where a child is ill. The Principal, HSCL person and two other nominated staff members will be insured to deliver children home when necessary. They must be accompanied by another staff member at all times. In the

event of the nominated staff not being available a taxi will be called and the teacher reimbursed.

Where extra curricular activities are undertaken by a school such as concerts/games, parents should make arrangements to ensure that children who require collection are collected from the event by a parent or other person delegated by the parent. Parents are advised of the necessity of making arrangements to ensure their children get home safely.

H) Extra curricular activities

For all after school activities which take place on the school premises/grounds, by private arrangement, the BOM will seek to ensure that individuals providing such classes are responsible people.

I) School tours

On all school trips where adults are being brought, it is school policy that they be responsible adults invited by the teachers and that they be fully aware and appreciative of the fact that the teachers are in charge.

On all trips pupils will be organised in pairs or large groupings to ensure that they are at all times accompanied by another.

At all times there must be adequate supervision of pupils.

The pupils will be encouraged to wear high visibility vests where possible.

While every effort will be made to adhere to best practice as agreed and outlined above, in the event of an emergency where this is not possible or practicable, a full record of the incident should be made and reported to the principal and to the parents if deemed necessary.

The Board of Management has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols and practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each item listed above

LINKS TO OTHER POLICY/PLANNING AREAS

Prevention:

- Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- SPHE school plan with particular emphasis on curriculum strand unit 'Safety and Protection'
- RSE school plan
- Walk Tall
- The school Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying policy
- Pupil attendance strategy
- Stay Safe school plan
- Weaving Well-Being

Procedures: Health and Safety statement

Practice: Swimming, school tours, after school activities

6. This policy has been made available to the personnel and the Parents' Council and is readily accessible to parents online. A copy of this policy will be made available to the DES and the patron if requested.

7. REVIEW and MONITORING

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the BOM on an annual basis and/or when the need arises. The BOM will ensure that adequate training and support is provided for all staff.

This Child Protection Policy was reviewed by the staff on 14th November 2022.

This Child Protection Policy was ratified and adopted by the BOM on

22/11/22

Signed _____
Graham Finlay, Chairperson of BOM
Signed _____
David Gough, Principal
Date 22/11/22. _____

Date of next review: November 2023