

ST. BRIGID'S GNS, KILLESTER, DUBLIN 5

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



The Board of Management (BOM) 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 BOM of St. Brigid's GNS has agreed the following child protection policy:

1. The BOM 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 **Lorna Diffley**
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Mary Devilly**
4. In its policies, practices and activities, St. Brigid's GNS 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.

5. Child Protection Guidelines and Best practise guidelines are in place and link in with the following- Code of Behaviour/Anti-bullying Policy, Pupil Attendance Strategy, Supervision of Pupils, Sporting Activities/School Outings/Pupil Work Placements, Intimate Toileting Policy. 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 BOM once in every school year.

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This policy was adopted by the BOM on _____ [date]

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date of next review: October 2017

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Lorna Diffley

Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Mary Devilly

Duty Social Worker: 8160314/373

Raheny Garda Station: 6664300

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Checklist for Annual Review of the Child Protection Policy

The Board of Management must undertake an annual review of its child protection policy and the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The checklist is designed as an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management may wish to include other items in the checklist that are of particular relevance to the school in question. As part of the overall review process, Boards of Management should also assess other school policies, practices and activities vis a vis their adherence to the principles of best practice in child protection and welfare as set out in the school's child protection policy.

Yes/No

Has the Board formally adopted a child protection policy in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools? _____

As part of the school's child protection policy, has the Board formally adopted, without modification, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools?

Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed? _____

Are the relevant contact details (HSE and An Garda Síochána) to hand? _____

Has the DLP attended available child protection training? _____

Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training? _____

Have any members of the Board attended child protection training? _____

Has the school's child protection policy identified other school policies, practices and activities that are regarded as having particular child protection relevance? _____

Has the Board ensured that the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools are available to all school personnel? _____

Has the Board arrangements in place to communicate the school's child protection policy to new school personnel? _____

Is the Board satisfied that all school personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools? _____

Since the Board's last annual review, was the Board informed of any child protection reports made to the HSE/An Garda Síochána by the DLP? _____

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Since the Board's last annual review, was the Board informed of any cases where the DLP sought advice from the HSE and as a result of this advice, no report to the HSE was made? _____

Is the Board satisfied that the child protection procedures in relation to the making of reports to the HSE/ An Garda Síochána were appropriately followed? _____

Were child protection matters reported to the Board appropriately recorded in the Board minutes? _____

Is the Board satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely? _____

Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association, has been provided with the school's child protection policy? _____

Has the Board ensured that the school's child protection policy is available to parents on request?

Has the Board ensured that the Stay Safe programme is implemented in full in the school?

Has the Board ensured that the SPHE curriculum is implemented in full in the school?

Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements for Garda Vetting have been met in respect of all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?

Is the Board satisfied that the Department's requirements in relation to the provision of a child protection related statutory declaration and associated form of undertaking have been met in respect of persons appointed to teaching and non-teaching positions?

Is the Board satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers)?

Is the Board satisfied that the " Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools " are being fully and adequately implemented by the school?

Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's child protection policy and/or its implementation that require further improvement?

Has the Board put in place an action plan containing appropriate timelines to address those aspects of the school's child protection policy and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?

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Has the Board ensured that any areas for improvement that were identified in any previous review of the school's child protection policy have been adequately addressed?

Signed: _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: _____
Principal

Signed: _____

Date: _____