

Monaleen N.S.

Child Protection Policy



Introductory Statement

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 (Department of Education and skills, 2017), the Board of Management of Monaleen National School 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 (Department of Education and skills, 2017) which were developed in conjunction with *Children First – National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)* as part of this overall child protection policy. Other legislation which has been consulted in the development of this Child Protection policy include: the Education Act 1998, the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Protections of Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004, and the Safety, Health at Work Act, 2005, Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Adults) Act 2012.

2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Fiachra MacCraith (Acting Principal)

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Catherine Mulcahy (Acting Deputy Principal)

4. In its policies, practices and activities, Monaleen National School 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. School policies, practices and activities that are particularly relevant to child protection

Guidelines for school Personnel

All members of the Board of Management of our school are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities of the BOM as set out in Children First (2015), Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary School 2017 which details the practical procedures the BOM should follow in providing for/dealing with for example, planning and Implementing a Child Protection Programme, staff development and training, Appointment of DLP/Deputy DLP, Dealing with Allegations or Suspicions of Child Abuse, Children at Risk, Curriculum Provision, Prevention of Child Abuse, Dealing with Allegations of Child Abuse by a School Employee, Teacher Attendance at Child Protection Meeting/Case Conference and other issues pertaining to our school. Our Board of Management will undertake an annual review of the Child Protection Policy. They will follow the template/checklist in Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools (2017) in reviewing the Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment.

All Staff Members (Teachers, SNAs, Caretaker, and Secretary) of the school have a duty to familiarise themselves with the new guidelines, namely Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools (2017). All staff members have familiarised themselves with Children's First Act 2015 as well as Definitions and Recognition of Child Abuse; Basis for Reporting Concerns and Standard Reporting Procedure to ensure they know exactly what they need to do in handling disclosures from children or suspicions of abuse.

Concerning the position of DLP /DDL the DLP has specific responsibility for child protection and will represent the school in all dealings with relevant parties in connection with allegations of abuse. The names of the Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person, the Child Safeguarding Statement and the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment are displayed in a prominent location near the main entrance to the school in line with current guidelines. All matters pertaining to the processing or investigation of child abuse should be processed through the DLP/DDLP. The DLP/DDLP must maintain proper records of all reported concerns and disclosures securely. In our school as the DLP is our principal he will report on child protection at every Board meeting. The Designated Liaison Person shall inform the school authority of cases where the Designated Liaison Person sought advice from the HSE and as a result of this advice, no report was made as well as informing the school authority of cases where a report involving a child in the school has been submitted to the HSE. As a staff we decided that the principal would act as the DLP and the Deputy Principal would be the DDL. This is going to be reviewed on a yearly basis or when necessary.

Curriculum Implications

In Monaleen National School we are committed to

- Creating a health-promoting physical environment,
- Enhancing self-esteem, Fostering respect for diversity,
- Building effective communication within the school,
- Developing appropriate home-school communication,
- Catering for individual needs,
- Developing democratic process and
- Fostering inclusive and respectful language

The Stay Safe Programme (as part of our S.P.H.E. curriculum) is fully implemented in our school as set out by the Department of Education and Skills', Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017. This ensures that each child is enabled to live a full life as a child and to realise his or her potential and develop as a social being through living and co-operating with others and so contribute to the good of society, prepare the child for further education and lifelong learning.

Organisational implications

All school policies/procedures are being updated in line with Children First Act (2015), Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017, Tulsa Guidance on preparation of Child Safeguarding Statement and any future policies/procedures will be developed in conjunction with these publications. The following school policies/practices are adopted in relation to child protection.

- Code of Behaviour
- Health and Safety
- Anti-Bullying
- Critical Incidents
- Healthy Eating
- Substance Misuse

- Visitors/Guest Speakers
- Children with specific toileting/intimate care needs
- Toileting accidents
- One-to-one teaching
- Changing for games/PE/swimming/other school related activities
- Recruitment and selection of staff
- Supervision of pupils
- Internet use
- Use of images of children
- Attendance
- Record Keeping Policy
- Travel
- Volunteer helpers
- Arrival and departure of children to/from school
- Communication between staff, parents and pupils
- SPHE
- Administration of medicines
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Covid 19 Response Plan & Risk Assessment

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.

In our school we have procedures in place for the induction of staff with regard to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools (2017) as well as ensuring that new staff are supported in their implementation of the Stay Safe programme and that they are record keeping appropriately and completing the online role book correctly each day. The principal or the Deputy Principal will make new teachers or subs aware of relevant policies and procedures.

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 25th November 2020[date]

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal

Date: _____ Date: _____

Date of next review: 25th November 2021