



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Bush Post Primary School

Riverstown

Dundalk

Co. Louth

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. In accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools which are based on *Children First - National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011*, the Board of Management of Bush Post Primary 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 as part of this overall child protection policy.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr. Kevin Joyce
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is Mrs. Sinéad McDonnell
4. In its policies, practices and activities, Bush Post Primary 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 students and staff and protect staff 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.
5. The school's Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Discipline are in place, along with a Year Head for each year group and a Class Tutor for each base class in each year group. These systems enable our staff to monitor student behaviour very closely. The Care Team is comprised of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellors, HSCL co-ordinator, SEN Co-ordinator and Rainbows Co-ordinator. Consequently, any concerns relating to child protection which require our attention are be dealt with in accordance with child protection procedures. It is incumbent on the Principal, as devolved by the Board of Management, to ensure that all new staff employed in Bush Post Primary School, teaching or non-teaching, are Garda Vetted. The DDL will act on any referrals in the absence of the DLP.
 6. The staff of Bush Post Primary have been fully briefed on Child Protection Guidelines (most recently on 31/08/15) and have each received an electronic copy of the Department of Education and Skills Child Protection Procedures. Our duty of care to all students is the responsibility of every member of staff in Bush Post Primary School.
 7. These procedures are available on the school website at www.bpps.ie

8. The following procedures are also in place in our school:

- Staff members will not carry a student or students in their private vehicle at any time under any circumstances.
- Supervision of students is provided (i) before first class every morning (ii) at morning break (iii) at lunchtime and (iv) after last class in the evening. Up to 14 staff per day provide extensive supervision in the school covering the outside areas as well as the corridors and the running track.
- Students requiring basic First Aid are attended to by one of our trained first aid staff members. In the case of a more serious injury, the student is attended to as above and a parent/guardian is contacted immediately. In agreement with the parent/guardian, the student may be collected and sign-out or brought to the G.P. / A & E by a member of staff. The welfare of the student is always the top priority in such cases. First Aid supplies are monitored and maintained at all times.
- All teams who travel to away games will be accompanied by two members of staff where possible. This is deemed a necessity, particularly should any accident/incident occur which may require a staff member to accompany a student to the G.P. / A & E.
- Where large groups of students travel to events outside the school, adequate teacher supervision will be put in place to ensure the safety of each student.
- Changing rooms (either at home or away) will be monitored appropriately while, at the same time, allowing students space and privacy.
- In the case where a student is entitled to one-to-one resource hours with a teacher, these classes take place in an area of the school which is openly visible. The teacher will use the co-ordinator's office or the meeting room which has a glass viewing panel in the door. If there is no glass viewing panel in the room, the door will remain open at all times.

9. Bush Post Primary School's Child Protection Policy is particularly relevant to the following school policies:

- The Code of Behaviour Policy
- The Anti-bullying Policy
- The DEIS Plan
- The School's Education Outing Practices
- The P.E. Department's Policies

- LCVP, LCA and TY Work Experience Policies
- Career Guidance Policy

10. This Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management annually.

Signed:

Michael J. Fungley

Signed:

Th. Loya

Date:

28/01/2016.

Date:

28/1/2016