

Child Protection Policy  
St.Ronan's NS  
Deansrath.  
June 2012

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 schools policies, practices and activities. In accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary schools, the Board of Management of St. Ronan's NS 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 schools as part of this overall child protection policy.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Mr Ainnle O'Neill
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Ms Mary Fitzpatrick.
4. In its policies, practices and activities, St. Ronan's NS will adhere to the following principals 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 staff from the necessity of taking 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
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
- Ensure that educational programmes aimed at helping children protect themselves and develop self esteem are implemented in our school

5. The following programmes and policies are relevant to Child Protection in St. Ronan's NS:

The Stay Safe programme

The RSE programme

The Walk Tall programme

The STAR code of discipline

The Anti- bullying policy

The Restorative Practices policy

The Pupil attendance policy

Health and Safety statement

School Tours and extra- curricular activities policy.

**Protocols for dealing with various issues:**

**Yard/classroom accidents**

Significant incidents will be recorded: the nature of the injury; treatment given. Cuts will not be covered-need to be checked by parent. Parent will be contacted in the case of a serious incident.

**Media Products**

Teachers will ensure the suitability of DVDs and CDs used in the classroom. All teachers will ensure that DVDs carry the U classification. In the event that a teacher wishes to use a DVD

for curricular purposes which does not have a U classification- permission from parents will be sought in advance to allow pupil to watch this.

### **Toileting accidents**

Spare underwear will be available in the infant rooms. The child will be asked to change own underwear. If s/he unable to do this, the parents will be contacted and requested to come to the school to assist the child.

### **Swimming**

Ensure each pupil is using appropriate swimwear

**Releasing children into the care of adults who may be deemed unfit** ( under influence of alcohol or drugs)

Every care will be taken to ensure a child will not be released to an adult deemed unfit. Where necessary the emergency services will be contacted immediately and appropriate action will be taken the DLP.

### **Journeys with children**

Ensure that a staff member is never on his/her own in the car with a child-except in the case of an emergency- in this case ensure the child is sitting in the back of the car.

### **Visitors/ Guest speakers**

Ensure that the class teacher is always present in the classroom with a guest speaker.

### **Technology**

Mobile phones are totally banned-except in the case of an emergency where the class teacher must be informed in writing . The phone will be kept in a safe place.

6.Procedures for reporting concerns or disclosures:

The school will follow the guidelines issued by the DES in reporting concerns or disclosures of Child Protection issues. All staff are aware of the signs and symptoms which need to be monitored under the areas of emotional abuse, general neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse. All concerns will be reported to the DLP and procedures in the guidelines - Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011-will be followed.

7. This policy has been made available to school personnel and is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of this will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

8. This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management - June 2012