

St Patrick's Comprehensive School, Shannon, Co. Clare.

Child Protection Policy

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, the Board of Management of St. Patrick's Comprehensive 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. Morgan Heaphy (Principal)
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Mrs. Mary Davoren (Deputy Principal)
4. In its policies, practices and activities, St. Patrick's Comprehensive 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. This section of the child protection policy should be used to list school policies, practices and activities that are particularly relevant to child protection (e.g. the Code of Behaviour/Anti-bullying

Policy, Pupil Attendance Strategy, Supervision of Pupils, Sporting Activities/School Outings/Pupil Work Placements at post primary etc.)

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 (if any) 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 _____ [date]

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal

Date: _____ Date: _____

Date of next review: _____

Appendix 2: 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.

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

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'? **Yes**

Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed? **Yes**

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

Has the DLP attended available child protection training? **Yes**

Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training? **Yes**

Have any members of the Board attended child protection training? **Yes**

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

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

Has the Board put arrangements in place to communicate the school's child protection policy to new School personnel? **Yes**

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'? **Yes**

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? **No**

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? **No**

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? **NA**

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

Has the Board ensured that the Parents' Association (if any), has been provided with the school's child protection policy? **Yes**

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

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

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? **Yes**

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)? **Yes**

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

Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's child protection policy and/or its implementation that require further improvement? **No**

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 ? **No**

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

*In schools where the VEC is the employer the responsibility for meeting these requirements rests with the

VEC concerned. In such cases, this question should be completed following consultation with the VEC.

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal

Notification regarding the Board of Management's annual review of the child protection policy

To: _____

The Board of Management of _____ wishes to inform you that:

The Board of Management's annual review of the school's child protection policy was completed at

the Board meeting of _____ [date].

This review was conducted in accordance with the checklist set out in Appendix 2 of the Department's

'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools'

Signed _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed _____ Date _____