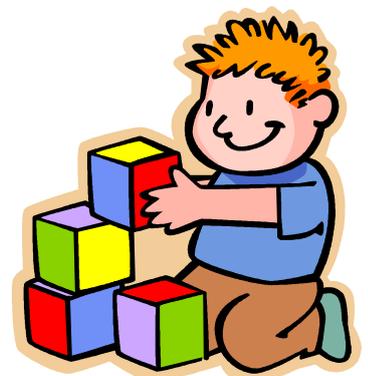




# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



*St Laurence's National School*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Department of Education and Skills has introduced Guidelines and Procedures for all schools in relation to Child Protection and Welfare. These guidelines promote the welfare of all children and are to be welcomed.

The Board of Management of St Laurence's National School has adopted these guidelines as school policy. Consequently if there is a matter of concern in relation to abuse of children we are obliged to report this to the HSE Local Health Office. They will assess the case and provide the necessary support for the child concerned.

There have been seminars for all schools throughout the country to inform them of these guidelines. This letter is by way of notification to parents of procedures that operate under the guidelines.

Yours faithfully,

Noel Lanigan,  
Principal.

## **ST. LAURENCE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL**

### **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. We seek to protect our pupils by helping them learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe. Our 'Stay Safe' and 'Relationship and Sexuality Programme' have elements of self protection for each year group, designed to equip pupils with the knowledge necessary for making informed choices regarding their personal being. 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. Laurence's 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 as part of this overall child protection policy.
2. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Noel Lanigan
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Íde Kelly

#### **AIMS:**

In its policies, practices and activities, St. Laurence's National School will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- ensure that children are listened to and taken seriously
- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations
- ensure that all who work in our school – teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers have clear guidance on the detection and inter-agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected
- 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 maintain a proper balance between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the child's interests must always come first
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters
- remember that children with disabilities are children first and foremost and have equal rights to protection

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

4. The staff of our school are familiar with and have access to the following policies that are relative to child protection. – Code of Behaviour, Anti-bullying Policy, Pupil Attendance Strategy, Critical Incident and our School Tour 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.

5. 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.
6. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ .

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Should you wish to view the 'Child Protection Policy' in full, please contact the school office directly.***