

Child Protection Policy of Oola National School

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 Oola N.S. 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 Pat Enright.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Maria Carrie.
4. In its policies, practices and activities, Oola N.S. 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.

5. Specific policies named here under are key elements of this overall document and must be referred to in the context of this policy.

Enrolment
Code of Behaviour
Bullying
Health and Safety
Record Keeping

ICT
Special Education
Induction of Staff
Tours and Trips
Critical Incidents

Attached are our *Child Protection Practices* which lists specific practices and activities where child protection has particular relevance and forms part of our Child Protection policy. These areas have been identified and discussed by all staff members.

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' Council and is readily accessible to parents on request. It is also available in hard copy in each classroom. 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 10-10-2016.

Signed: _____
Chairperson of BOM

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date of next review: October 2017

Child Protection Practices

Oola N.S.

Attendance

We are cooperating with the Educational Welfare Board on attendance matters.

Changing for Sport

Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for matches, swimming, drama practices etc. in the school bathrooms or dressing rooms. An adult will wait at the door. Under no circumstances will a staff member be expected or allowed to dress or undress a child unsupervised in a changing room.

In Tipperary Swimming Pool, special needs children will use the family changing room with two adults present. An adult will supervise the boys and the girls changing rooms.

Collection of Children

If a child is not collected from school, a member of staff phones parents at number provided. The child remains in a common area of the school. Members of staff are not prepared to take children home in private cars. However if a child is abandoned and no contact can be made with parents, staff members will endeavour to get the child home.

Internet

Children do not access internet outside class time. Pupils are not allowed bring mobile phones, camera phones, video games to school.

Intimate Care & Toileting Needs

Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the school so that if a child has a toileting accident, they will in the first instance be offered fresh clothing into which they can change. If a child soils themselves, a staff member will phone parents to come to the school to clean and change their child. If for whatever reason a pupil cannot clean or change themselves and the parents / guardians cannot be contacted, the child will be assisted by members of staff familiar to the child. Two staff members should be present. Any deviation from the agreed procedure will be recorded and notified to the DLP and parents / guardians.

As regards special needs children, arrangements are made on a case by case basis that is acceptable to the pupil, his / her parents and the staff concerned.

One to One teaching

It is the policy in this school that one-to-one teaching can sometimes be in the best interest of the child. Every effort will be made to ensure that this teaching takes place in an open environment. Glass panels are present on all room doors. An additional glass panel has been fitted between the resource and learning support room.

Record Keeping & Monitoring

Individual records will be kept in filing cabinet in principal's office. All sensitive documents will be treated in a considerate, ethical manner. Sensitive information regarding children will be shared on a need to know basis. Child Protection records will be filed securely in filing cabinet in resource room. All educational files of pupils who no longer attend the school are kept in the store room in the art room.

Stay Safe

The Stay Safe Programme will be implemented in all classes every second year as part of our SPHE programme. It will be implemented this school year 2016 / 2017.

Travelling in Teachers Cars

Buses will be used to transport pupils to matches, concerts, trips and tours. For local events, children where possible will walk. Members of staff will not carry children alone in their cars at any time.

Vetting

As per circular 63/2010, any adult with unsupervised access to pupils will have their statutory declaration witnessed at school.

Visitors and Guest Speakers

Visitors and guest speakers should never be given unsupervised access to children. It is the schools responsibility to check visitors' credentials and content of presentation.