

SCOIL THOMÁIS, LAUREL LODGE, CASTLEKNOCK, DUBLIN 15 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (updated November 2016)

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 Scoil Thomáis 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 **Principal Ms Mary McGarry**
 3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is **Deputy Principal Ms Mary Ryan**
 4. In its policies, practices and activities, Scoil Thomáis 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. The following school policies are particularly relevant to Child Protection: Code of Behaviour & Anti Bullying Policy, Mobile Phone & Electronic Devices Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, RSE Policy, Supervision of Pupils Policy 2016.
 - In 2013 the school has devised specific guidelines to support school staff in dealing with aspects of school life that have a particular relevance to Child Protection ie accidents and emergencies, toileting issues, 1-1 teaching, non-collection of pupils at hometime etc.
 - A copy of school based guidelines has been made available to all school staff individually and a copy is also available in the staffroom. A copy of the DES *Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools* & the DES *Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools* is available in all classrooms. The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of these matters. **The BOM is implementing the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting as per DES circular 31/2016.**
 6. Scoil Thomáis Child Protection policy has been made available to school personnel and to Scoil Thomáis Parents' Association. It is also 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.

Scoil Thomáis Child Protection Policy (revised 2011) was adopted by the Board of Management on 17th November 2011.

It was reviewed in November 2012, November 2013, November 2014, December 2015 & November 2016.

Date of next review: *November/December 2017*

Signed: *Pat Curtin*
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Mary McGarry*
Principal

Date: *15th November 2016*