



Bray School Project 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. Accordingly, in accordance with the requirements of the **Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools**¹² the Board of Management of Bray School Project 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. This policy applies to all personnel (paid and voluntary) of the School working within the School environment/activities. The Board recognises that school personnel are especially well placed to observe changes in children's behaviour, their lack of development or outward signs of abuse. In situations where school personnel suspect that a child may have been abused or neglected, or is being abused or neglected, or is at risk of abuse or neglect, they shall ensure that such concerns are reported in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.
- 3. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Carol Lanigan, Principal.**
- 4. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is Lesley Sheridan, Deputy Principal.**
5. In its policies, practices and activities, Bray School Project 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

¹ Circular 0065/2011 available at: www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/information/ChildProtection/cp_procedures_primary_post_primary_2011.pdf

² These procedures are currently being revised - <https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Information/Child-Protection/> - in accordance with the new Children First guidance which comes into effect on 11th December 2017 - http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf

- 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
6. A number of policies, practices and activities have particular relevance to child protection. These include the following:
- Vetting Policy
 - Volunteer Policy
 - Code of Behaviour
 - Anti-bullying Policy
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - Medical Policy
 - School Accident/Injury Policy

The Board has ensured that the necessary policies, protocols or practices as appropriate are in place in respect of each of the above.

7. Activities such as class outings, swimming classes, guest/visitor activities and extra-curricular activities are areas that require close attention with a view to protecting children. Volunteers may be present for some of these activities. Volunteers should never be unsupervised unless they have been Garda Vetted. It is the policy of the Board that all volunteers will be Garda Vetted.
8. The reporting procedures are as follow:
- All concerns/disclosures involving child protection/child welfare issues will be reported in the first instance to the DLP (or Deputy DLP where appropriate.)
 - Each report to the DLP will be dated and signed by the person making the report.
 - The DLP will make a judgement, seeking advice from Túsła if necessary, as to whether a formal report needs to be made to Túsła.
 - A strict adherence to maintaining confidentiality is vital with information regarding concerns or disclosures of abuse only being given on “need to know” basis.
 - If a complaint is made against the DLP, the Chairperson of the Board of Management may report the issue to Túsła.

- Copies of the Standard Form for Reporting Child Protection and/or Child Welfare Concerns are located in the Principal's Office.
- **The designated referral agency for our school is:**

Address	Child and Family Protection Service, Knockrobin Primary Care Centre, Port Road, Wicklow, Co Wicklow.
Phone	076 6958400
Office Hours	9am - 5pm

In cases of emergency, contact should be made with An Garda Síochána:

Phone 999 or

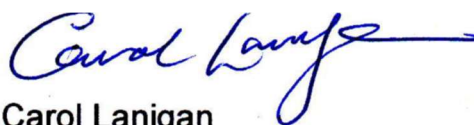
Bray Garda Station, Convent Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow: (01) 666 5300.

8. It is NOT the role of the school staff or management to investigate any case that comes to their attention, and in fact, it is not appropriate or acceptable for any detail of any report to be made to the Board of Management. The only relevant investigating authorities are Túsla or An Garda Síochána.
9. Every meeting of the Board of Management will have as an agenda item, a statement by the Principal of whether or not any report was made to the Designated Liaison Person or Deputy Designated Liaison Person and whether advice was sought and/or a report made to Tusla. The minutes must simply state that a report was made or that none was made, and/or that advice was sought, with no details or elaboration. A reference number will be used to refer to each case. The identification of the reference number will be available only to the Designated Liaison People. These reports will not be included in the Agreed Report.
10. 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.
11. 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 17th October 2017. It will be updated according to the revised Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools to be published by the Department of Education and Skills in advance of 11th December 2017. After that the update of next annual review is October 2018.



Déirdre Crowe
Chairperson of Board of Management



Carol Lanigan
Principal