



St. Mary's Road
Buncrana,
Co. Donegal

St. Mura's National School

Tel. No. 074 9362309

Roll No.16854V

e-mail stmurasbuncrana@gmail.com

Child Protection Policy

Introductory Statement

The staff and the Board of Management of St. Mura's N.S. have developed and agreed this policy in line with the current recommendations relating to child abuse prevention and child protection procedures

This policy addresses the responsibilities of the school in the followings areas:-

- a) Prevention - curriculum provision
- b) Procedures - procedures for dealing with concerns / disclosures
- c) Practice - best practice in child protection

An individual copy of this policy document will be made available to all staff members. It is incumbent on all staff to familiarise themselves with DES child protection procedures.

The Board of Management of St. Mura's N. S. has formally adopted the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools without modification and the school is compliant with the requirements of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.



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AIMS

- This policy aims to
- Create a safe, trusting, responsive and caring environment
- Provide a personal safety skills education which specifically addresses abuse prevention for all children in the school
- Develop awareness and responsibility in the area of child protection amongst the whole school community
- Put in place procedures for good practice to protect all children and staff
- Ensure that all staff members are aware of and familiar with the DES procedures in relation to reporting concerns and/or disclosures of child abuse.
- Provide for ongoing training in this and related areas for all school staff

Prevention

The Stay Safe programme is the primary resource used in this school to provide education for children on abuse prevention. The programme is taught as part of the schools' SPHE curriculum under the strand unit Safety and Protection.

On enrolment of their child, parents will be informed that the Stay Safe programme is in use in the school.

The formal lessons of the programme will be taught in their entirety every second year in accordance with the SPHE two-year cycle plan.

Staff will make every effort to ensure that the messages of the programme are reinforced whenever possible.

The staff have considered the following:-

The teaching of Stay Safe in a multi-class situation will be age appropriate.

Use will be made of the Stay Safe pack for children with learning difficulties as and when the need arises.

The learning support teacher, the resource teacher and the special needs assistant may assist the class teacher in relation to the teaching /support of a programme of prevention, if appropriate.

Procedures:



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All staff (teachers, SNAs, ancillary, secretarial, etc.) in this school will follow the recommendations for reporting concerns or disclosures as outlined in 'Child Protection Procedures: Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools'. The Board of Management of this school has appointed Rosemary Dunne as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Kelly Gallagher as the deputy DLP.

The staff and management of this school have agreed:

- 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 that report.
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- A strict adherence to maintaining confidentiality - information regarding concerns or disclosures of abuse should only be given on a 'need to know' basis.

Practice:

The following areas have been considered by the staff and board of management of this school as areas of specific concern in relation to child protection. Following discussion and consultation the staff and board of management have agreed that the following practices be adopted.

a) Physical contact

It is advisable for staff not to make inappropriate physical contact with the children in the school. Physical contact between school personnel and the child should always be in response to the health and safety needs of the child and not the needs of the adult.

While physical contact may be used to comfort, reassure or assist a child the following should be factors in determining its appropriateness:-

- It is acceptable to the child
- It is open and not secretive
- The age and developmental stage of the child



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School personnel should avoid doing anything of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves.

b) Visitors / Guest Speakers:

The school (principal/teachers) has a responsibility to check out the credentials of the visitor/guest speaker and to ensure that the material in use by guests is appropriate. The class teacher will be present during such visits, at all times.

c) Children with specific toileting/intimate care needs:

In all situations where a pupil needs assistance with toileting /intimate care a meeting will be convened, after enrolment and before the child starts school, between parents/guardians, class teacher, special needs assistant, principal

and, if appropriate, the pupil . The purpose of the meeting will be to ascertain the specific needs of the child and to determine how the school can best meet those needs. The staff to be involved in this care will be identified and provision will be made for occasions when the particular staff involved are absent. A written copy of what has been agreed will be made and kept in the child's file. The Board of Management will be made aware of agreed practices.

d) Toileting accidents:

Clean underwear and suitable clothing will be kept in the school so that if a pupil has an 'accident' of this nature they will in the first instance be offered fresh clothing into which they can change.

If the pupil for whatever reason 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. In all such situations two members of staff should be present, if possible.

A record of all such incidents will be kept and principal and parents will be notified.

e) One-to-One teaching



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It is the policy in this school that one-to-one teaching is sometimes in the best interest of the child. Every effort will be made to ensure that this teaching takes place in an open environment. Parents of children who are to be involved in one-to-one teaching will be informed and their agreement sought. The Board of Management are aware of this practice.

Work being carried out by special needs assistants will be carried out under the direction of the class teacher in an open environment.

f) Changing for Games/ PE/ Swimming

Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for games/PE/ swimming. Where assistance is needed, this will be done in the communal areas and with the consent of parents. Under no circumstances will members

of staff/ volunteers be expected to or allowed to dress/undress a child in a cubicle/private area. In such situations where privacy is required, the parent/guardian of the child will be asked to assist the child.

While every effort will be made to adhere to best practice as agreed and outlined above, in the event of an emergency where this is not possible or practicable, a full record of the incident should be made and reported to principal and parents.

Links to other policy / planning areas:

Prevention: SPHE curriculum, Strand Unit on 'Safety and Protection',
The School Code of Behaviour

Procedures: Anti-Bullying Policy.
Health and Safety Statement.

Practice:

School Tours / Outings

Review and Monitoring



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This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis and /or when the need arises.

Policy adopted by the BOM on _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Review _____