

# **Child Protection Policy of Limerick East Educate Together National School**

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be a priority in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. 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 Limerick East Educate Together National School has agreed the child protection policy with the following action plan.

1. The Board of Management has formally 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) appointed is

**Michael Quealy**

3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) appoint is

**Yvonne Briody / Eilin Mulcahy**

4. In its policies, practices and activities, Limerick East Educate Together National School 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 and transparency with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children
- fully respect and enforce confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

5. The Board of management of Limerick East Educate Together National School recognises that child protection is paramount in every aspect of school life. This is particularly true in relation to the following policies:

- Code of Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Health and safety policy
- Substance Use Policy
- Data protection Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy (internet)
- Attendance Policy
- Critical Incident Policy

- Tours and Outings 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.

Appendix 1 contains practices that have been considered by the staff and board of management of this school as areas of specific concern in relation to child protection

6. This policy has been made available to school personnel 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.
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 05.12.17

**Signed:** Jane Harris

Chairperson Board of Management

**Signed:** Mike Quealy

Principal

# Appendix 1

## Practice

The following practices have been considered by the staff and board of management of Limerick East Educate Together National School as areas of specific concern in relation to child protection. 'Stay Safe, best practice in Child Protection: Guidance for schools' was consulted in drawing up this practice. Following discussion and consultation the staff and board of management have agreed that the following practices be adopted.

### **a) Physical contact**

Physical contact between school personnel and the child is

always in response to the 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 criteria should be considered in determining it's appropriateness:

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

School personnel will avoid doing anything of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves. For example; buttoning coats.

**b) Visitors / Guest Speakers:**

Visitors/guest speakers will always be accompanied by a teacher. The school (principal/teachers) has a responsibility to ensure that the visitor/ guest speaker is familiar with the philosophy of the Primary School Curriculum (PSC) and that content is in line with the strands, strand units and objectives of the PSC. The school has also undertaken that all visitors/guest speakers will be made aware of the child protection policy.

**c) Children with specific toileting/intimate care needs:**

At present there are a number of children in the junior classes with intimate care needs. Every attempt will be made to have two members of staff present when assisting with toileting needs. In the event of this not being possible every effort will be made to ensure that the door of the changing space will be left ajar

**d) One to One teaching**

In cases where one-one teaching occurs every effort will be made to ensure that this teaching takes place in an open environment. To this end the doors of the Special Education have a glass panel. Parents of children who are to be involved in one-to-one teaching will be informed and their permission will be sought for this.

**e) 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. At all times there must be adequate supervision of pupils.

Here are some guidelines for best practice put forward by the resources at 1) and 2) below

**1) “The Code of ethics and Good Practice for Children’s Sport” From the Irish Sports Council:**

- We will never share a room with a single child
- We will knock on changing room doors and remain in the doorway rather than entering if possible
- We may enter dressing room if it is judged that children are engaging in unsafe play.

**2) Children are less likely to experience accidents or other harms if they are supervised properly. Activities should be organised so they maximise participation, fun and learning, but also safety.**

So it is important to ensure that:

- Adequate numbers of workers of both sexes are available to supervise the activities
- Workers know at all times where children are and what they are doing
- Any activity using potentially dangerous equipment has constant adult supervision
- Dangerous behaviour is not allowed.

**“Our Duty to Care: the principles of good practice for the protection of children and young people” from The Department of Health and Children [www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie) (p.11)**

**f) Supervision of children**

Children are adequately supervised during the school day and on all school related activities.

**g) First Aid**

First Aid is administered in the space under the purple stairs by one of the SNAs on duty.

**h) Access to school grounds**

Parents/guardians are welcome to drop their children to school at 8:30. The back gate will be opened between the following times 8:30 - 9:00, 1:20 - 1:45 and 2:20- 3:00 Visitors outside of these times are asked to call to reception.

**i) Early leavers**

Parents of children who need to leave the school early for whatever reason are asked to go directly to reception and sign the early leaver's book. After signing the book the child will be called to reception through the intercom.

**j) Junior Infants will be collected in the courtyard until further notice. Senior infants will be collected from the exit beside first class.**

Children travelling at home at 2:20 will be accompanied to the yards by class teachers. They should remain inside the gate until collected. Children travelling by bus will line up in the bus line and be accompanied to the bus by two members of staff.

**k) Only one student per yard will be allowed to the toilets at break times. An SNA will accompany the student to the toilets situated in the special class.**

- I) The recruitment of staff will be carefully considered. All applications will supply personal details, references, proof of Garda vetting and completion of the statutory declaration form.

### **Links to Curriculum**

SPHE : Safety and Protection

Stay Safe Programme

Relationships and Sexuality

**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.**