



St. David's C.B.S

Artane, Dublin 5



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

Principal: Mr Padraic Kavanagh

Deputy Principal: Mr Alan Mynes

CHILD PROTECTION

The legislative basis for dealing with children in need of care and protection is provided by the Child Care Act, 1991 which was fully implemented in December 1996. The promotion of the welfare of children is the paramount principle underpinning the Act. In addition, the Government produced national child protection guidelines – “Children First” – in September 1999.

Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures for Post Primary Schools were first issued by the DES in September 2004. These were formally adopted as policy by the BOM of this school in 2004. Formal training for all employees in child protection matters was conducted in 2005.

The BOM complies with Circular 0094/2006 issued by the DES for the vetting of teaching and non-teaching staff in schools.

Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools since 2011

Following consultations between the Department and organisations representing school management, parents and teachers, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Health Service Executive (HSE), revised Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools have been drawn up and apply with immediate effect to all primary and post-primary schools.

Children First – National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2011 was published in July 2011 and is available on the website of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs at www.dcyia.ie.

Main elements

- A copy of the school's child protection policy which includes the names of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP shall be made available to all school personnel and the Parents' Association and must be readily accessible to parents on request.
- The name of the DLP must be displayed in a prominent position near the main entrance to the school.
- In addition to informing the school authority of those cases where a report involving a child in the school has been submitted to the HSE, the DLP shall also inform the school authority of cases where the DLP sought advice from the HSE and as a result of this advice, no report was made.
- At each Board of Management meeting the principal's report shall include the number of all such cases and this shall be recorded in the minutes of the board meeting.
- Each school must undertake an annual review of its child protection policy and its implementation by the school.
- The school must put in place an action plan to address any areas for improvement identified by the review. The Board of Management shall make arrangements to inform school personnel that the review has been undertaken. Written notification, that the review has been undertaken shall be provided to the Parents' Association (or where none exists directly to parents). A record of the review and its outcome shall be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

Designated Liaison Person

It is the responsibility of the Board of Management to designate a senior member of staff as the Designated Liaison Person for the school. The Designated Liaison Person will act as a liaison with outside agencies and as a resource person to any staff member or volunteer who has child protection concerns.

As a resource person, the Designated Liaison Person should ensure that he/she is knowledgeable about child protection and undertakes any training considered necessary to keep himself/herself updated on new developments. This person will be the Designated Liaison Person for the school in all dealings with health boards, An Garda Síochána and other parties, in connection with allegations of and/or concerns about child abuse. Those other parties should be advised that they should conduct all matters pertaining to the processing or investigation of alleged child abuse through the Designated Liaison Person. It is expected that the Designated Liaison Person will normally be the Principal. Where the Board of Management appoint a Designated Liaison Person who is not the Principal, consideration must be given as to how the Principal will be kept informed.

The Designated Liaison Person for St David's CBS is Mr. Padraic Kavanagh.

The Deputy DLP is Mr. Alan Mynes.

These were formally adopted as policy by the BOM of this school on 8 Jan 2012.