

Child Protection Policy of Boston N.S.

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 Boston N.S. 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

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

In the event of the above being unavailable the DLP and Deputy DLP will be replaced by another teaching staff in order of seniority.

4. In its policies, practices and activities, Boston N.S. 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. This section of the child protection policy should be used to list school policies, practices and activities that are particularly relevant to child protection (e.g. the Code of Behaviour/Anti-bullying Policy, Pupil Attendance Strategy, Supervision of Pupils, Sporting Activities/School Outings/Pupil Work Placements at post primary etc.)

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.

6. This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents 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 reviewed by the Board of Management on
_____ [date]

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Appendix 1

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. '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 should always be

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

b) Visitors / Guest Speakers:

Visitors/guest speakers should never be left alone with pupils. 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.

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.

Two members of staff will be present when dealing with intimate care/ toileting needs if possible. Any deviation from the agreed procedure will be recorded and notified to the DLP and the parents/guardians.

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.

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

e) One- to One teaching

It is the policy in this school that one-to-one teaching is often 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.

Work being carried by special needs assistant will be carried out under the direction of the class teacher in an open environment. (In the event of a special needs assistant

being employed in Boston N.S.) A copy of the time table is given to the principal and on display in the classroom.

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. 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. The parent/guardian may only help their own child, and will only aid other children if the parents of these children have provided written permission.

At all times there must be adequate supervision of pupils.

g) Supervision of children

Children are adequately supervised during the school day and on all school related activities. When first aid is administered in the school this is done in the child's classroom or the school office and in the presence of other children. Children will not travel alone in staff teachers cars. Furthermore, children are not allowed to be collected by somebody unknown to the staff.

a) Recruitment and selection of staff

The recruitment and selection of staff will be carefully considered. All applications will supply personal details, a resume of work experience and references to the school and garda vetting will always be sought. All volunteers working in the school will do so under the guidance of the teachers.

i) Internet Safety

Children are adequately supervised on the internet in school. Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school (only in exceptional circumstances with the teachers permission), but have consent to bring them for school related activities outside of school. The schools acceptable use policy outlines the decisions the school has taken in relation to technology including mobile phones, pictures etc.

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 Discipline

Procedures: Anti-Bullying Policy .

Health and Safety Statement.

Practice: Swimming Policy

School Tours / Outings