

## CHILD PROTECTION

In St. Mary's Primary School, the care, welfare and safety of the children in our care is paramount. We recognize that we have a pastoral responsibility toward our pupils who have a fundamental right to be protected from harm neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety preserved.

In St. Mary's Primary School the designated teacher who has a specific responsibility for Child protection is the Vice Principal: Mr Higgins. The Deputy designated teacher is Mrs McEvoy.

### **In St. Mary's Primary School:**

\*We will alert all staff to the signs of possible abuse

\*When child abuse is suspected, it is the responsibility of the member of staff who is aware of the circumstances, to notify the designated teacher.

\*The designated teacher will ensure that the appropriate reporting and recording procedures are set in motion as quickly as possible.

\*Any clarification should be done carefully and sensitivity—it is not responsibility of the staff to undertake any investigations or to make extensive enquiries of family or carers.

\*Ancillary staff should report any suspicions or concerns to the designated teacher.

\*Parents will be notified about procedures on a regular basis. \*Children will be advised what to do in school if they have concerns about such matters.

\*At all times we will strive to protect children, whilst respecting the rights of parents, families, carers, and members of staff.

### **IDENTIFYING ABUSE**

All School staff, teaching and non-teaching, are aware of their legal responsibility to inform the designated teacher of any suspicion they may have regarding abuse of a child.

**Procedures to be followed where a complaint is made about possible abuse against a member of staff.**

If a complaint about possible abuse is made against a member of staff, it should be referred directly to the Principal.

The Principal may need to seek discreet preliminary clarification from the person making the complaint or giving the information or from others who may have relevant information.

If a complaint has definitely been made, the Principal will:

\* Inform the designated teacher who will initiate the record of complaint.

\* Consult CCMS to form an initial assessment as to whether or not there is sufficient substance in the allegation to warrant further action.

\* Consult with the chairperson of the Board of Governors and decide on one of the following :-

(a) The allegation is apparently without substance and no further action is necessary

(b) An immediate referral to Social Services or the Police is warranted.

(c) The allegation concerns inappropriate behaviour which needs to be considered under the disciplinary procedures.

### **Complaint against the Principal.**

Where a member of staff receives a complaint concerning the Principal, the above procedures will be followed save that the role set out for the Principal will be exercised by the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. The employing Authority will be consulted immediately in such a case. Every allegation of misconduct will be treated seriously and the above procedures followed.

### **Voluntary action within the school.**

All parents coming in to the school to help out in a voluntary capacity will be required to complete an application form, consenting to a criminal records check to be carried out. CCMS will be forwarded complete forms and will request criminal records checks on our behalf.

### **INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT ABOUT POSSIBLE CHILD ABUSE**

**Talk to the class teacher.**

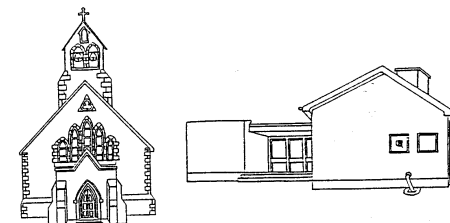
**If you are still concerned talk to the designated teacher for child protection, Mr. Higgins.**

**If Mr Higgins is unavailable, please ask to speak to the deputy designated teacher for child protection, Mrs McEvoy.**

**If you are still concerned talk to the Principal, Mr Murphy.**

**If you are still concerned you can talk or write to the chairman of the Board of Governors: Mr McKibben.**

# St Mary's P.S. Aughlisnafin



## Summary of Policies For Pastoral Care And Child Protection 2022/23

# Pastoral Care

## Mission Statement

In St. Mary's Primary School we aim to create a caring community in which all pupils are encouraged to fulfill their full potential. Central to this aim is the recognition of the worth and value of every child, the fostering of Catholic values and the promotion of mutual understanding and respect for others. We aim to establish a community wherein all pupils, staff and parents enjoy a sense of belonging and each has an important role to play in the success of that community.

## General Aim of our Pastoral Care Policy

We aim to promote a caring school which values all who are part of it, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect in which the children and staff feel secure and happy and all work together as a team.

## Rights and Responsibilities

### Rights

#### Pupils have the right to:

Be educated in a safe and stimulating environment.

Be treated fairly, consistently and with respect.

Work and play within clearly defined and fairly administered codes of conduct.

Be consulted about matters that affect them and have their views listened to and as far as possible acted upon.

#### Parents have the right to:

Have their children educated to the best possible standard.

Have reasonable access to the school, and have their enquiries and concerns dealt with sympathetically and efficiently.

Be informed of their child's progress.

Be informed about school rules and procedures.

A broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum for their children.

Be informed promptly if their child is ill or has had an accident, or if the school has concerns about the child.

Have their children protected while in the school environment.

Be treated with courtesy and respect.

### Responsibilities

#### To enjoy these rights pupils must:

Respect the rights of others and therefore not engage in bullying.

Ensure they do not keep other pupils from being taught and learning.

Co-operate with teachers, assistants and with their peers, showing respect at all times.

Abide by school rules on discipline and acceptable behaviour.

Accept ownership for their behaviour and learning.

#### To enjoy these rights parents must:

Ensure their child attends school regularly, is equipped with the right books, equipment healthy break/water and support the school to the best of their ability.

Be aware of school rules and procedures and adhere to them at all times.

Attend planned meeting with teachers.

Provide the school with all necessary background about the child, including telling the school about any concerns they have about their child or any significant change in their medical needs or home circumstances. Ensure children are well enough to attend school.

Be committed to the education of their children.

Show respect to all within the school environment.

#### Staff have the right to:

Enjoy a stress-free and productive working environment. Work in an environment where common courtesies and social conventions are respected.

Express their views and contribute to policies which they are required to reflect in their work.

Support and advice from senior colleagues and bodies.

Adequate and appropriate resources and accommodation.

Be treated with respect by all with whom they come in contact e.g. pupils, parents and visitors.

#### To enjoy these rights staff must:

Seek to create a positive stress-free learning environment for their pupils in which pupils get rewarded for positive behaviour and achievement.

Behave in a professional manner at all times.

Show interest and enthusiasm for the work in hand and in their pupils learning.

Seek advice and/or help from colleagues.

Identify and seek to meet the needs of their pupils and parents.

Expect high standards and acknowledge effort and achievement in all areas of work.

Treat pupils, parents and colleagues with respect.

## REWARDS

In St. Mary's we apply a system of rewards, which are intended to be fair and effective for all our pupils. These rewards are intended to contribute to the ethos of the school and involve all teaching and non-teaching staff. They are aimed at promoting and reinforcing good behavior and promoting self-esteem. They encourage each pupil to take responsibility for his/her actions and to have their efforts recognized and rewarded.