



Child Protection Policy- Wexford Educate Together

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Management of Wexford Educate Together National School has adopted the Department of Education and Science Guidelines and Procedures in relation to Child Protection and Welfare. These Guidelines are laid out in the Children First document. This policy clarifies how our school proposes to implement these guidelines in order to ensure the protection and welfare of all children attending our school.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

Children enrolled in Wexford Educate Together National School will be supported in reaching their full potential: mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. This support will be differentiated in an atmosphere and environment in which children feel safe, valued and secure and in which respect for self and others is the norm.

Our school operates under the direct patronage of Educate Together. The four underlying principles of our ethos are:

- Co-educational
- Child-centred
- Multi denominational
- Democratically run

AIMS

- To raise awareness of the importance of child protection (emotional, physical, sexual and neglect) among all school staff (including teachers, SNAS secretary, caretaker etc).
- To put in place clear procedures for all school personnel dealing with suspicions and allegations of child abuse.
- To identify curricular content and resources, that contribute to the prevention of child abuse and to enable children to properly deal with abuse if it occurs.
- To promote the welfare of all the pupils in our care.

CONTENT

It is the policy of our school to follow the procedures as laid down in Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures DES 2001 in any case where we suspect, or are alerted to, child abuse, including where a child discloses abuse. All disclosures will be documented, dated and kept on file by the DLP. All disclosures will be treated in a highly confidential manner.

The Board of Management has appointed the Principal Teacher as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in our school to have specific responsibility for child protection.

The second teacher has been appointed as Deputy DLP to take the place of the DLP if unavailable.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Board of Management has primary responsibility for the care and welfare of all pupils.
- The DLP has specific responsibility for Child Protection in the school.
- All staff has a duty of care to ensure that arrangements are in place to protect children from harm.

PROCEDURES

The procedures for dealing with allegations /suspicions/disclosures of Child Abuse are set down in the Children First Guidelines and will be followed.

ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Supervision

Every effort will be made to ensure that there is comprehensive supervision of children throughout the school day. A roster of staff on duty will be drawn up and displayed in the administration area/staff room. Teachers will ensure that the children are visible in the schoolyard. Children will not leave the schoolyard or engage with adults outside of the schoolyard. Children are not permitted to spend break times in the classrooms.

Visitors

All unscheduled visitors to the school are expected to report to the Principal's room on arrival. All visitors to the school must sign the sign in book on arrival in the school. The sign-in book is located outside the office. Staff on yard duty will be aware of visitors entering the schoolyard and direct them to the school office. The drop-off/pick-up of children throughout the teaching day will be processed through the school office.

Bullying

Bullying behaviour will be addressed under our Anti-Bullying Policy. If the behaviour involved is of a sexualised nature or regarded as being particularly abusive, the matter will be referred to the DLP.

Behaviour

Children are to be encouraged at all times to play co-operatively and to show respect for themselves and others. (Please see our Code of Behavior.)