

Safety Statement on behalf of the Board of Management of St Oliver Plunkett's NS

1. Introduction

This Document has been prepared in compliance with the 2005 Health and Safety Act. This document should be read in conjunction with the Health and Safety Risk Assessment.

2. Board of Management Philosophy

The Board of Management recognises and accepts not only its statutory responsibilities, but also its obligations as an employer to direct, manage and achieve, in so far as is reasonable and practicable, the Safety, Health and Welfare at work of every employee, pupil and visitor to the school.

The Board of Management believes that each employee accepts his or her legal and moral responsibilities for improving and maintaining safety, health and welfare in the workplace and for personal safety, health and welfare or that of others.

3. Safety Organisation

Safety is a line Management responsibility. Staff is responsible for safety in their own area and the implementation of relevant safety procedures. The Safety Officer shall monitor safety generally and the operation of safety procedures. The principal shall ensure that each employee shall obtain a copy of the Safety Statement and shall be familiar with its contents.

4. Safety Officer

The principal is the Safety Officer. He shall be responsible for overseeing the safety provisions on behalf of the school. Mairead Murphy and Roisin Patterson are the Safety Representatives elected under the provision of the 2005 Health and Safety Act. They should be consulted if any of the employees have queries regarding any of the safety provisions mentioned in this statement.

The Safety Officer shall make the Board of Management aware of their duties with regard to the following:-

- a) To guide and advise on all health, safety and welfare matters.
- b) To ensure that the school fulfils all statutory requirements in respect of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989.

- c) To ensure that the appropriate safety education and training are co-ordinated and carried out using both in house and external resources.
- d) To undertake regular and appropriate revision and auditing of the school safety procedures and methods of operation, to ensure that they are kept up to date.
- e) To ensure that adequate fire protection and prevention measures are provided.

The safety Officer shall investigate all accidents and dangerous occurrences and shall ensure that appropriate statutory notification procedures are properly completed. Causes of accidents shall be determined as far as is practicable and where, appropriate, remedial action shall be specified.

5. Safety Training

All employees will be:-

- a) Instructed in lifting and handling methods.
- b) Advised of the protective clothing and safety equipment available and the areas where they must be worn.
- c) Advised of the nature and location of fire equipment and how it is safely operated.
- d) Notified of any change in safety procedures.
- e) Trained in the use of a defibrillator (full time and long term teaching, SNA and administrative staff).

6. Electrical Appliances

Arrangements will be made for all electrical appliances to be checked out on an annual basis by a competent person or maintenance person (caretaker), the supplier or his agent. Before using any appliances the user should check that:-

- a) All safety guards, which are a normal part of the appliance, are fitted and in working order.
- b) Power supply cables/leads are intact and free of cuts and abrasions.
- c) Suitable undamaged fused plug tops are used and fitted with the correct fuse.
- d) Children will be made aware of the dangers of tampering with electrical apparatus, sockets etc., children will never be allowed to connect/disconnect electrical appliances.

7. Chemicals, Solvents, Detergents. Copier Toner, etc.

Members of staff using these materials should familiarise themselves with the hazards associated with the materials and precautions to be taken in the event of spillage, splashes, etc.

8. Welfare

To ensure the continued welfare of employees, toilet and cloakroom areas are provided. Staff must co-operate in maintaining a high standard of hygiene in these areas.

9. Fire Protection

- a) Fire extinguishers are provided and correctly sited to meet statutory and insurance requirements.
- b) All fire fighting equipment is regularly tested and serviced by specialised contractors.
- c) All fire exits and emergency paths of egress are identified and kept clear at all times.

10. Fire Prevention

- a) Fire extinguishers inspections and analysis of potential fire hazards are regularly carried out by Precision Integrated Fire, in consultation with the Safety Officer.
- b) Liaison with relevant authorities takes place as is necessary.

11. Evacuation

An evacuation procedure has been prepared as per S.18 (2) Fire Services Act 1981 and is provided to each employee. Evacuation drills will take place once per term or more often if required. Employees are reminded to familiarise themselves with the premises. This is organised by the Principal and Deputy Principal

12. Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in Primary and Secondary schools, including the school yard.

13. Duties of Employees

The attention of employees is drawn to the following duties of persons employed as laid down in Section 9 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989.

It shall be duty of every employee while at work:-

- a) To take reasonable care for his/her own safety, health and welfare and that of any person who may be affected by his/her acts omissions while at work.
- b) To co-operate with his/her employer and any other person to such extent as will enable his/her employer or other person to comply with any of the relevant statutory provisions.
- c) To use in such manner and so as to provide the protection intended, any suitable appliance, protective clothing, convenience, equipment or other means or thing provided whether for his/her safety, health, welfare while at work.
- d) To report to his/her employer or immediate supervisor without unreasonable delay, any defects in plant, equipment, place of work or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare of which he/she becomes aware.

No person shall intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse any appliance, protective clothing, convenience, equipment or other means or thing provided in pursuance of any of the relevant statutory provisions or otherwise for securing the safety, health or welfare of persons arising out of work activities.

14. Accident/Incident Reporting

All potential serious accidents, whether involving employees, pupils or members of the public must be reported immediately to the principal. This is necessary to monitor the progress of safety standards and to ensure that proper medical attention is given where required. An accident report file should be retained for recording of all such accidents.

15. General Safety

The aim of the Board of Management is to provide a healthy and safe working environment. This can be achieved with the help and assistance of all employees and by pupils by :-

- a. Observing the general rules of safety.
- b. Using all plant, machinery and equipment in a safe and proper manner.
- c. Employing all proper procedures when carrying out tasks and ensuring that no practices are used which may act as a source of danger to themselves and to others.
- d. Keeping work areas clean and tidy at all times.
- e. Making sure all corridors and passageways, particularly those leading to escape routes are kept free of obstruction at all times.
- f. Taking care that fire points are not blocked or covered up in any way and they are ready for use if the need arises.

16. Concluding Comment

This Safety Statement has been prepared based on conditions existing in the premises of the school at the time of writing. It may be altered, revised or updated at a future date so as to comply with any changes in conditions. This policy is in keeping with the provisions of our Child Protection and Code of Behaviour Policies.

17. Review

The Health and Safety Policy will be reviewed each calendar year. If new buildings are erected or internal structural changes are carried out. The policy will be reviewed in the light of the changes necessary and ratified at the following BOM meeting. The checklist will be updated each calendar year at this time also, but may be updated at any time to reflect changes in conditions.

Signed:

Chairperson: *Sheila Macken*

Principal: *Mairéad Murphy*

Date: 28.09.2023