



Scoil Naomh Erc

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“Spot it, sort it. If you can’t sort it, report it.”

Rationale

The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Erc, Glenderry, Ballyheigue is committed to securing high standards of health and safety in and around the school. It strives at all times to create a working and learning environment that is safe and healthy for all that use it, namely staff, pupils, parents/guardians and relevant members of the public.

The school will apply the provisions of all applicable health, safety and welfare legislation and codes of practice to ensure that places and systems of work are safe and without risk to health. Continuous improvements in health and safety performance will be sought, but interventions will reflect the reality of identified risks.

Aims

The aim of the policy is to:

- Ensure that all reasonably practical steps are taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all persons using the premises.
- Ensure that all reasonably practical steps are taken to ensure the health and safety of staff, pupils and other supervising adults participating in off-site visits.
- Establish and maintain safe working procedures amongst staff and pupils.
- Make arrangements for ensuring safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.

- Develop safety awareness amongst staff, pupils and other supervising adults.
- Formulate and implement effective procedures for use in the event of fire and other emergencies.

Responsibilities

Board of Management

- The Board is the employer of the school's staff. As such, it has overall responsibility for ensuring healthy and safe places and systems of work for staff, as well as a duty of care to all other building users.
- The Board will ensure that an up-to-date Safety Statement is in place. It will undertake a regular risk assessment and will ensure that identified hazards are eliminated or minimised as far as is reasonably practical. The Board will devote sufficient resources to ensuring the health and safety of all members of the school community and will ensure that there is adequate insurance in place to cover the activities of the school.
- The Board will appoint at least one person to the role of Safety Officer to assure health and safety compliance. This may be an external expert or a BOM member, but not the Principal or Teachers' Representative on the BOM.

The BOM will sanction relevant health and safety training for this person if necessary.

Principal and Deputy Principal

- The Principal is the link between the BOM and the staff.
- The Principal will ensure that all staff, including temporary and part-time staff, receive induction, on-going training and regular information on health and safety matters and will consult with them, on behalf of the BOM, at least annually on such matters.
- The Principal will support and assist staff to enable them to reach correct decisions about health and safety and will check at intervals that safe working methods are being observed that are in accordance with school and statutory procedures.

- The Principal will also receive and deal initially with any health and safety concerns that he receives from staff, parents, guardians and others.
- The Deputy Principal will take on the duties of the Principal in his absence.

Other Employees

- All staff, including temporary and part-time staff, are required to cooperate with the Board and others to ensure health and safety law in general, and this policy in particular, are implemented.
- They have responsibility to take reasonable care of their own safety, health and welfare and that of any person who may be affected by their acts or omissions. This applies to any work they do on behalf of the school, both within the school premises and outside.
- Specifically in terms of child welfare, teachers are in loco parentis and are expected to do what a reasonably careful parent would do in any situation involving risk.
- Staff are required to attend any health and safety training that is deemed essential by the BOM and are encouraged to undertake appropriate additional training. All training must be delivered by individuals/organisations competent to do so.
- Records of all health and safety training completed will be maintained by the school. Staff must use available facilities and equipment and other forms of protection to ensure work practices are performed in the safest manner possible and must never intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse any such facilities, equipment or protection.
- Staff may not be under the influence of an intoxicant to the extent that it endangers their own or another person's safety and must inform the Principal if they are suffering from any injury, disease or illness that adds to risks within the school.
- Any dangerous practices or situations that staff become aware of must be reported to the Principal and/or staff Safety Representative without unreasonable delay.

Staff Safety Representative

This Health and Safety Policy names Ms Caroline Corridon and Mr Pdraig Lyons as the Staff Safety Representative and the duties associated to this include:

- Represent employees on health and safety matters
- Inspect the place of work on health and safety grounds
- Investigate accidents and dangerous occurrences
- Investigate health and safety complaints made by employees
- Accompany a health and safety inspector carrying out an inspection if and when required
- Make representations to, and receive information from, an Inspector
- Make representations to the Board on health and safety matters
- Liaise with other relevant persons engaged in health and safety matters
- Receive appropriate training for this role.

Parents and Guardians

- Parents and guardians are requested to cooperate with the Board and others to ensure health and safety law in general and this policy in particular, are implemented.
- They have responsibility to take reasonable care of their own safety, health and welfare and that of any person who may be affected by their acts or omissions. Parents are especially reminded that they must not allow their children to engage in dangerous play in and around the school.
- Once a pupil enters the school building, the teachers are in loco parentis and thus primarily responsible for the child's health, safety and welfare.
- Parents and guardians, however, must take specific responsibility for other children, especially young children, accompanying them in the school and its environs. Parents and guardians are requested to report any health and safety concerns to the Principal and/or the Chairperson of the Board. Additionally, or

alternatively, they may raise any concerns with the Chairperson of the Parents' Association Committee. High-risk concerns must be reported promptly to the Principal.

- Parents and guardians are also entitled to receive information on, and be consulted on, the school's health and safety policy and procedures.

Pupils

- Pupils will be advised of any relevant health and safety procedures and are required to comply with the staff and Board in implementing these.

Members of the Public

- Members of the public who visit the school will be informed of any relevant health and safety regulations in place and will be required to abide by these.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that any outside contractors used by the school are covered by adequate insurance and comply with health, safety and welfare legislation.

Emergencies

Emergency Routes and Exits

The school has, and will maintain, an adequate number of emergency routes and exits, which meet statutory regulations. These will be clearly signed and kept free from obstruction at all times.

All rooms will have evacuation instructions on the inside of each door.

School evacuation will be practised as part of regular fire drills.

Special provisions will be made for evacuations that take place during extra-curricular activities.

Fire protection

The school has, and will maintain, appropriate fire detection and fire-fighting equipment, which meets statutory obligations.

Fire drills will be held at least two times per school year and a logbook will be maintained of all such drills.

Staff will be trained in the use of fire-fighting equipment.

Any contractor completing hot work (including welding, soldering, use of blow lamps, blow torches and cutting equipment) must be qualified to do so, must carry a fully charged fire extinguisher and must make a full check one hour after completion of the work.

Emergency contact details

Emergency contact details of the parents and guardians of all children in the school as well the next of kin of all staff, will be kept in the school office.

The responsibility lies with parents/guardians to inform the school of any changes to the emergency contact details.

First aid

The school has six SNAs trained in First Aid and they update their training every two years. Their names are printed on a chart in the staffroom.

The school recognises the importance of taking the appropriate measures in cases of accidents and injury, including, where necessary, securing the site and immediately telephoning the emergency services.

The school also accepts that ideally, the number of occupational first aiders within the school community should be higher. If available, occupational first aiders will administer any first aid in the first instance. However, in the absence of such a person, any competent adult will make every effort to attend to an injured person.

There will be five first aid boxes in the school, one located in the staffroom, our designated First Aid Station, one in each of our ASD classes, one in the front

office and one in our PE stores for excursions and matches. The first aid boxes will be stocked in accordance with guidelines issued by the Health and Safety Authority. Medication may never be stored in first aid boxes.

Investigation, recording and reporting

It is important that all instances of ill health, accident and 'near miss' that result from compromised health and safety circumstances are recorded and investigated, to ensure relevant lessons are learnt for the future. To this end, the school maintains a logbook of all such instances, which is kept in the staffroom. The Principal will report on these at the next meeting of the BOM (and sooner to the Chairperson of the BOM if the instance is deemed sufficiently serious). Any incident involving a child will also be notified on the day itself to the relevant parent/guardian, ordinarily by the class teacher.

Furthermore, the Principal will make a report to the Health and Safety Authority in the case of dangerous occurrences, death or serious accidents (that is, an accident requiring absence from work/school for more than three days, not including the day of the accident itself, or requiring medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner or hospital). Additionally, the Principal will make a report to the school's insurance company.

Emergency closures

In the event of, for instance, heavy snowfall, high winds, thunderstorms, disconnection of services, death or critical incident, the Principal will consult as soon as feasible with the Chairperson of the BOM to decide whether it is in the interests of all parties to close the school. If it is decided that it would be unsafe to keep the school open, an exceptional closure will be deemed to have been granted by the BOM. Exceptional closures will be kept to an absolute minimum. Parents and guardians will be informed at the earliest opportunity of any such closure using a range of communication techniques (SMS, Aladdin, email, telephone calls, posting on school website, message on school voicemail, note at school gate, etc). If school is open when an incident occurs, staff will remain on the premises until all children have been collected.

Safety

Traffic management

The school recognises that great numbers of staff, pupils, parents, guardians and other members of the public travel within the direct vicinity of the school. They ordinarily arrive and leave at concentrated times of the day using different modes of transport, which poses enormous safety concerns. The BOM wants traffic in and around the school to be managed as safely as possible, but this requires the full cooperation of all parties concerned. All vehicle users coming to the school must comply with the rules set down by the Road Safety Authority. In instances of illegal road usage, the school may inform the local Garda station.

Safe access and egress routes

Every effort will be made to ensure that all building users can safely access, egress and move around the school grounds and building. Entrances and corridors will be kept free from obstruction.

Children arriving at school

School starts at 9:00 am, however as far as reasonably possible supervision will be provided inside and outside from 8:40 am. Children, on entering the school will go straight to their classroom.

Children leaving school

Parents or guardians of children in Junior and Senior Infants must collect them from the front of the school at 1.40pm (or earlier in the case of early closure).

First to Sixth Class children are dismissed from their classrooms at 2.40pm and will exit the school via front gate near boiler house. Pupils will be reminded on an ongoing basis that if they are not collected on time, they must make their way to the office where school staff will attend to their immediate safety needs. If pupils need to leave school early (for example, for a dental appointment), the parents or guardians must notify the school in advance. If a person other than a parent or guardian is collecting the child, the parent/guardian must give written permission to the class teacher or on Aladdin (unless it is an emergency situation, in which case the school office may be contacted by telephone). Any child who leaves early must be signed out from their classroom/the yard prior to leaving the premises.

Supervision of children during the school day

To ensure children remain inside the school premises during the school day, measures will be taken to ensure children cannot exit by themselves. Similarly, measures will be taken to ensure that uninvited persons do not enter the school.

Children are supervised throughout the school day, by their class teachers and/or colleagues. If class teachers are absent, deputies are assigned immediately and children may be divided up between the other classes for the school day. In cases of longer term absences, substitute teachers may be engaged.

On occasion, a teacher may have to leave the classroom for a short period of time. If so, s/he will ensure that a colleague will provide temporary supervision cover.

Sometimes children may be allowed to leave their classrooms for limited periods of time to undertake specific errands. They should always be accompanied by another child.

During yard time two class teachers will ordinarily supervise the school yards, assisted by the school's Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) The yard supervision rota will be displayed in the staff room and offices. If the weather is inclement, children will remain inside either in the classroom or in the halla for quiet activities. Particular care will be taken during activities that are more likely to pose potential hazards, such as outdoor play during icy conditions, physical education and arts and crafts. Parents and guardians are requested to ensure that their children attend school in appropriate clothing and footwear and that they do not wear loose jewellery at any time.

School excursions

Safety is taken very seriously during all excursions away from the school grounds, whether local or further afield. Where transport is required, the school will hire buses that are adequate for the size of the group from a reputable company that provides safe vehicles and drivers. Every effort will be

made to source buses that have seat belts and all passengers will be required to make use of these. Pupils are paired up for each excursion and must follow their teacher's instructions at all times.

A teacher or other responsible adult always leads the way and the group is required to stay together, using waiting points where necessary. Children are counted when leaving school and at various points during the excursion. Specifically in the case of swimming, teachers will inspect the changing rooms on arrival and children will be required to get ready for the pool quickly. They may not run and must not enter the pool until the instructor gives the go ahead.

Other

The school will provide safe equipment for both its staff and pupils, including where necessary, guards and appropriate personal protective equipment. Equipment will be appropriately certified, maintained to a high standard and disposed of if it poses a safety risk. Electrical equipment will only be used and maintained by staff qualified to do so. Wherever possible, fuses and power breakers shall be used and all portable power equipment shall operate on 110V.

Equipment and substances for maintenance, cleaning, catering and similar will be stored securely away from children. Cleaning and maintenance will normally be done outside of school hours. Appropriate training will be provided in the safe handling and use of equipment and hazardous substances. Work at height will be avoided wherever possible and must never take place without other people being on the premises. Safe ladder practice must be observed and ordinary school furniture must never be used to undertake work at height.

Facilities

The building and grounds will be maintained on an ongoing basis according to a defined maintenance schedule. The school will adhere to, and exceed where possible, statutory regulations regarding asbestos, room dimensions, air space, freedom of movement, temperature, ventilation, light and other general welfare matters. Good levels of hygiene will be observed, including regular

cleaning and collection of litter. Any spills etc will be dealt with immediately. Warm water, soap and hand driers or paper towels will be made available at every sink for pupils and paper towels for staff. Appropriate attention will be given to the design and use of work stations and audiovisual displays including computer screens and interactive whiteboards. Smoking will not be allowed anywhere in the school and its grounds.

Illness

Parents and guardians will be required to complete a form listing any long-term allergies and illnesses that their children suffer from when enrolling in school (this includes any plaster allergies or similar). This will also include information about what can and cannot be done in an emergency situation. Copies of care plans will be kept in the files of the relevant class teachers and in the school office. A medical information display will also be maintained in the staff room. All staff are also requested to provide this information. Appropriate provisions will be made for any person who takes ill in school, including taking the individual to the doctor or hospital if deemed necessary.

Administration of medicines

Any medication belonging to a child is kept in a secure and clearly visible location in the staff room or in the child's classroom, with the exception of asthma inhalers, which are kept in children's own bags.

No teacher will be required to administer medicines or to supervise children taking medicines. If teachers are willing to do so, specific authorisation will be given in writing by the BOM, who will inform the school's insurers accordingly. Parents and guardians of children requiring medication will need to fill in a form annually. They will also be required to complete an indemnity form in respect of any liability that may arise from the administration of medication. They will inform the teacher(s)

how the medication should be administered. Parents and guardians will have responsibility to check each morning that the authorised teacher(s) is/are in school, that the teacher(s) has/have the medication on trip/swimming days, and that the medication is available and in date.

If at all possible, any medication should be self-administered, under the supervision of an authorised adult. A written record of the date and time of administration will be filled out by the teacher and put in the child's class medical file on the same day (with the exception of asthma inhalers). The child's parent/guardian will be informed on the same day that medication has been administered. See Administration of Drugs Policy.

Communicable disease

In the case of any infectious disease, parents and guardians will be informed as soon as possible and appropriate action will be taken by the Principal and BOM to limit the associated risks.

Health promotion

We are a Health Promoting school and the school will promote safe and healthy living, both through the curriculum and in other ways. For example, walking and cycling to school will be encouraged and guidelines will be issued to parents and guardians about the content of healthy lunch boxes.

Bully Free Zone

Scoil Naomh Erc is a bully free zone. See our anti bullying policy and our Anti cyber bullying Policy and our Code of Discipline Policy. This applies for staff and pupils and all who enter our school. See our Sexual Harassment and Adult Bullying Policy

Safety and Science Class

During all investigative and exploratory classes, teachers will ensure that adequate planning, organisation and control will be adhered to, to ensure the safety of all the pupils. A safety warning/advice will be given at the beginning of such classes.

School Fundraising:

Where children are involved in door to door school fundraising, they must at all times be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.

Intimate Care:

Pupils who wet themselves at school will be given new underwear to replace the wet underwear and they will be expected to bring new underwear to school to replace the underwear they were given. Children in Infants who need assistance in changing will be assisted by an SNA with the teacher in close proximity. Children with intimate care needs will be assisted by 2 SNA's with the permission of parents and as prescribed by the relevant professionals in their reports. (Also see School Intimate Care Policy)

Animals

No animals may be brought into the school grounds at any time, with the exception of assistance dogs.

Other policies which have a bearing on this Health and Safety Policy are our Child Protections Policy and Attendance Policy.

Child protection, dignity at work and play are dealt with in separate school policies.

Review

This policy shall be regularly revised by the Board Of Management of Scoil Naomh Erc, Glenderry in accordance with experience and the requirements of the Health and Safety Act and the Health and Safety Authority.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: Brid Cotter

Principal: Gerard Pinn

Safety Officer: Ed Hoban

Date: 3/10/23

Scoil Naomh Erc. Glenderry

Policy statement in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

Members of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: *Mrs. Bríd Cotter*

Board Members: *Fr. Pat Crean Lynch, Gerard Pierce, Anne Casey, Mary Griffin, Louise O Gorman, Ned Flahive, Beth Reidy.*

Safety Officer: *Ned Flahive*

Prepared by representatives of the Board of Management, in consultation with parents and teachers in accordance with the safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989