

# Child Protection Policy



***St Aidan's Comprehensive School***

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **St. Aidan's Comprehensive Child Protection Policy**

**Scope:** This is a whole-school policy. The purpose of the policy is to give direction and guidance to the school management and all school personnel of St. Aidan's Comprehensive in dealing with allegations/suspicious of child abuse. Its content and procedures are in line with the state Child Protection Guidelines.

In all cases the most important consideration to be taken into account is the protection of children. In this regard, this policy and procedures emphasises that the safety and well being of children must be a priority.

As a result of this document the whole school community adopts and agrees to implement without modification the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary schools. The BOM has formally adopted the Child Protection Policy and agreed reporting procedures [Appendix 2] and approved the nomination of the:

Designated Liaison Person – Maryann Smith Principal  
Deputy Designated Liaison Person – Niall McGee Deputy Principal

### **Relationship to School's Mission / Aims**

Whole School policy that puts children first as per the school's Mission / Aims

### **Rationale**

Statutory and Moral Obligation

### **Goals/Objectives**

- Protect the child
- Ensure all people in the school community are aware of signs / symptoms and procedures.

### **Aims:**

1. To familiarise all school personnel with the signs and behaviors that may be indicative of child abuse.
2. To outline the responsibilities of all school personnel in dealing with allegations/suspicious of disclosures of child abuse and /or neglect.
3. To enable school personnel to act in accordance with reporting procedures as outlined in the Child Protection Procedures.
4. To make school personnel aware of outside agencies that can be of assistance where abuse is suspected.

### **Contents:**

1. Definitions/Categories
2. Sign and symptoms
3. Children with additional vulnerabilities
4. Responsibility of all school personnel
5. Appointment of Designated Liaison Person (DLP)
6. Reporting procedures
7. Allegations or suspicions of child abuse by school employees
8. Advice on peer abuse and bullying in the context of child abuse

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 St Aidan's Comprehensive School Cootehill, 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 MaryAnn Smith
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is Niall McGee
4. In its policies, practices and activities St Aidan's Comprehensive School 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. School policies, practices and activities that are particularly relevant to child protection are the Code of Behaviour/Anti-bullying Policy, Pupil Attendance Strategy, Supervision of Pupils, Extra-curricular Activities/School Tours/Work Experience/Recruitment Procedures.

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' Association 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 adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ [date]

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson of Board of Management*      *Principal*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of next review: \_\_\_\_\_