

Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir

20094A

Health & Safety Policy



1. INTRODUCTION

The Board of Management of Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir, charged with the direct government of the school, has prepared this Safety Statement in accordance with the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare Act 1989/2005. In doing so it is mindful of the unique place the school occupies as an extension of the home life of the child and of the responsibilities entrusted to the personnel of the school by the parents of the pupils.

Safety, Health and Welfare within the school is, and has always been, a most sacred duty incumbent on all members of the school community and one which calls for constant vigilance.

2. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management will, as far as is, reasonably practicable:

Provide adequate resources to maintain the safety, health and welfare of all staff and pupils while on school premises.

Identify and review risk to the safety and health of pupils and teachers and put control measures in place to minimize such risks.

Provide and maintain systems of work, which are safe and without risk to health.

Provide staff and pupils with information and supervision as is necessary to secure their safety and healthy at work and that of others that may be affected by their actions.

Ensure that all equipment is maintained in a safe condition.

Make adequate provision for welfare facilities at the School.

Keep the School safe and ensure that access and egress is safe and without risk.

Monitor Safety performance.

The Board recognizes its duties to staff, parents, contractors and other members of the public who may visit the school premises on school business.

3. APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:

The Principal shall be responsible for overseeing the safety provisions on behalf of the Board of Management and a Safety Officer and a Safety Representative have been appointed for Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir under the provision of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989. They should be consulted if any of the staff have queries regarding any of the provisions mentioned in this statement. Their main duties and responsibilities are as follows:

Principal

The main functions of the Principal shall be:

- Day to day management of all health and safety matters in the school in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy.
- Ensuring that safe working practices and procedures are in place.
- Ensuring regular inspections are carried out.
- Passing on details on new legislation and health and safety matters.
- Investigating the cause of accidents and incidents where practicable and implementing corrective action where relevant.
- Identifying staff training needs.
- To organise the replenishment of First Aid kits. This job is delegated to the school secretary.
- To organize staff training e.g. Training in First Aid and the use of Fire Fighting Equipment.

Safety Officers

The main functions of the Safety Officers are:

- To give guidance and advice on all safety, health and welfare matters.

- To review and revise safety procedures as appropriate.
- To ensure that adequate fire protection and prevention measures are in place.

Other Staff

Other staff are responsible for:

- Day-to-Day management of Health and Safety in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy.
- Checking that classrooms/work areas are safe.
- Checking that equipment is safe before use.
- Ensuring safe procedures are followed.
- Bringing problems to the Principal's attention.

4 HAZARDS

The following hazards (in as much as can be identified) are considered by the school to be a source of potential danger and are brought to the attention of all concerned:-

Main switch/fuse board – No persons other than those qualified will be permitted to work on or repair the main electrical switch board or fuses. The area around the fuse boards will be kept clean and tidy at all times. Nothing should be left on top of the fuse boards.

Boiler House – Only authorised persons will be allowed into the Boiler House. All persons so authorised will be made aware of the special hazards i.e. high voltage electricity, extremely hot water and pipes and the danger of oil contamination. The boiler house will be kept clean and tidy at all times.

Class Rooms – Class rooms should be kept tidy.

Kitchen and Staffroom – Care must be taken at all times when using water boilers, kettles and other kitchen equipment. All persons using the photocopier will be made aware of particular hazards with chemicals relating to this equipment. The areas should be kept tidy at all times.

Portable equipment – Portable equipment will be inspected on an annual basis. Faulty equipment should be isolated from the power supply and removed for repair. Persons should check plugs and flexes before using equipment. Trailing leads should be used in such a manner as they do not cause a hazard to people through tripping and should be inspected by the user for faults. All faults should be reported to the Principal or the Safety Representative.

Emergency Escape Routes – Escape doors must not be locked during occupation of the building. Staff and pupils will be made aware of the escape routes by regular fire drills. All escape routes will be kept clear at all times. It is an offence, under law, to wedge open fire doors.

Fire Safety – (See Fire Drill Procedure)

A school evacuation procedure has been drawn up. A copy of this procedure will be made available to all employees. A copy will also be displayed in each class room and in the staff room.

- Evacuation drills will take place at least twice a year. Employees should familiarise themselves with the procedures so that a fast and effective evacuation of the school can be completed in the event of an emergency. When evacuating the building, the teachers will bring a list of their children's names. The children will not bring anything with them.
- Fire extinguishers are provided and will be maintained on a regular basis. Employees will be instructed in the safe use of this equipment.
- Emergency escape routes will be posted in all the classrooms and throughout the building.
- Re-Entry to the school building is prohibited until the all clear has been given by the Fire Officer attending the fire and in the case of a fire drill, until the Principal has given the all clear.

Running in School – Running is strictly forbidden in corridors and class rooms. Strict discipline will be maintained. Children should walk in lines, bags and equipment should be placed neatly in an area so as not to cause a tripping hazard.

P.E. – Teachers taking these classes should ensure that children wear suitable clothing and under no circumstances be allowed take part in classes in their stockings/feet. Sports equipment is to be maintained and helmets are to be worn for camogie and hurling.

Wet corridors/ floors – It is the policy of the Board of Management of Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir that every attempt will be made to avoid the creation of slippery surfaces. The washing of floors shall be conducted after school hours to eliminate, the danger of slipping. Where floors are wet, warning signs regarding wet floors shall be used. Attention is drawn to the possibility of outside surfaces being affected by frost in cold weather. This will be dealt with appropriately by a staff member i.e. salt.

Chemicals – It is the school's policy that all chemicals/ detergents etc be stored in a clearly identifiable container bearing the name, purpose and precautions for their use. These are kept with all the cleaning equipment in the storage area.

Broken Glass - The Board of Management shall minimise the danger arising from broken glass. Staff are asked to report broken glass to the Principal so that it may be immediately removed.

Infectious Diseases- It is the policy of the Board of Management of Christ the Saviour National School that all infectious diseases shall be notified and steps taken to ensure the safety of staff and students against all such diseases. The Board of Management will endeavour to minimise the risk by adherence to sound principles of cleanliness, hygiene and disinfection and have provided disposable gloves for use in all First Aid applications, cleaning tasks, etc. Toilets and washrooms shall be provided at all times with an adequate supply of water, soap, towels and a facility for the safe disposal of waste.

Drug medication – All medications/drugs that need to be administered to children in conjunction with the administration of medicine policy are to be kept in a safe place away from the children eg the fridge in the staffroom/medicine cabinet in the school office.

No medicines will be issued by staff except where written permission has been given by parents/guardians and the BOM has agreed to this procedure.

5. OFFICE MACHINERY

Office machinery includes photocopying machines, printers, guillotines and binding machines. Children may not use any machinery unless with the explicit permission of the principal or class teacher.

Installation

Machines will be positioned in a well ventilated area away from doorways.

The main on/off switch will be accessible at all times.

Repairs

Minor repairs, such as rectifying paper jams in a photocopier, may be carried out by staff where clear instructions exist and/or the action presents no hazard.

While machines are fitted with interlocking mechanisms to prevent electrocution, they should still be switched off before accessing the interior. Care must be observed to avoid hot surfaces.

Under no circumstances should staff use screwdrivers or any other article to tamper with the inside of machines.

Major Faults

Major faults, including any electrical faults, frayed wiring, must be reported immediately and the machine must be switched off. A printed notice should be posted on the machine stating 'Out of Order' until a fully qualified technician repairs the machine.

Maintenance

Basic maintenance of machinery will be carried out regularly by competent technical contractors.

Light Intensity

Photocopiers and laser printers are provided with strong light sources. Covers must be in place when copies are made.

6. FILING CABINETS

Use drawer handles when opening/closing drawers to avoid injury to fingers.

Always close drawers after use.

7. ELECTRICAL APPARATUS

The following precautions must be observed by all staff and employees to minimise the risks associated with electricity:

Children may not use any machinery unless with the explicit permission of the principal or class teacher and then only when supervised.

Any broken, ineffective or damaged electrical equipment, such as loose connections and frayed cables, must be reported immediately.

The electrical unit must be switched off immediately

Care should be observed and assume all electrical circuits are live unless there is absolute certainty that they are not.

Ensure that the equipment is switched off before it is plugged in.

8. FIRST AID PROCEDURES

The school's First Aid equipment is located in the back hall just outside SET Room 2. The back hall is our designated sick bay area.

Accidents on the yard will be brought to the attention of the teacher/SNA on duty.

Any accidents in the yard will be brought to the sick bay area for assessment and treatment.

Staff will administer basic first aid to any incidents.

If further medical attention is deemed necessary the parents will be contacted.

In emergency situations, and if deemed necessary, a child may be taken to hospital if the parent cannot be immediately contacted.

Parents are asked to sign a form giving permission for this as part of the Administration of Medicine Form.

There are also ice packs in the staffroom fridge freezer and cool packs in the fridge.

The school secretary is responsible for ensuring that the First Aid equipment is regularly replenished.

9. ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTING

All accidents, no matter how minor, and whether to employees, pupils or members of the public must be reported immediately to the class teacher, supervising teacher or 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 Book/Incident Book is kept in the Secretary's Office for recording serious accidents. This will be filled out by the staff member on duty and as soon as possible after the incident.

10. GENERAL SAFETY

The aim of the Board of Management is to provide a healthy and safe working environment for staff and pupils. This can be achieved with the help and assistance of all employees and pupils by observing the general rules of safety including:

Yard rules

Using all machinery and equipment in a safe and proper manner.

Employing the proper procedures when carrying out tasks and ensuring that no practices are used which may act as a source of danger to themselves and/or others.

Keeping work areas clean and tidy at all times.

Making sure all corridors and passages, particularly those leading to escape routes, are kept free of obstructions at all times.

Taking care that fire points are not blocked or covered up in any way and that they are ready for use if the need arises.

11. SAFETY AUDITS

Safety audits will be carried out yearly by the Safety Representative.

12. DISCIPLINE

The Code of Behaviour for Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir provides for a level of behaviour to minimize personal risk and stress to all.

School policy states that parents must make an appointment to meet a teacher.

If at any time a staff member is subjected to abusive or threatening behaviour by a parent, this incident must be drawn to the attention of the Board of Management.

The Board of Management will undertake to ensure that in such circumstances all appropriate measures will be taken to protect employees.

This policy is linked closely to the Code of Behaviour and Enrolment Policy. Children who pose a Health and Safety risk to themselves and others will be dealt with according to the school's Code of Behaviour and Enrolment policies.

13. POLICY RATIFICATION

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Chríost an Slánaitheoir at its meeting held on 02/10/2024

Signed:

Chairperson of the BOM

Safety Officer

Safety Representative from the staff

Principal