

# Safety Statement on behalf of the Board of Management of Aughacasla N.S

## 1. Introduction

This Document has been prepared in compliance with the 2005 Health and Safety Act.

## 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 are 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 Mr. Doyle is the Safety Officer. She shall be responsible for overseeing the safety provisions on behalf of the school. Ms. Galvin is the Safety Representative 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. Lead Worker Representative and Deputy Lead Worker Representative**

Síne Williams is the Lead Worker Representative and Katie Cawley is the Deputy Lead Worker Representative. The LWR will work in collaboration with the employer to assist in the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 and monitor adherence to those measures and to be involved in communicating the health advice around COVID-19 in the workplace.

#### **6. Safety Training**

All employees will be:-

- a) Advised of the nature and location of fire equipment and how it is safely operated.
- b) Notified of any change in safety procedures.
- c) Required to watch Covid 19 training videos as provided by the Dept of Education.

#### **6. Electrical Appliances**

- 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.**

Safety data sheets are supplied with all such materials. 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. In accordance with the recommendation of the appropriate Irish Standard for Fire Equipment. At least 20% of extinguishers will be discharged each year and relevant employees trained in the safe use of the equipment.
- 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 Apex Fire Ltd 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. On hearing the alarm all classes must:

- Go immediately to the emergency exits, closing all doors as they leave
- Not wait to find out what is happening
- Go at once to the assembly point(half way down driveway)
- Roll will be called
- Not re-enter the building until authorised to do so.
- As much as is practically possible Class Bubbles will be maintained in the case of an emergency evacuation and Fire Drill during the current health crisis.

### **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 off 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) Required to complete a Covid 19 Return to Work form prior to returning to work.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.

The Board of Management has identified serious shortcomings for pupil safety in access and egress to and from the school. . No safe parking area in place for drop off or collection of children. No safe collection point for buses with large bus impeding on public roadway during morning drop off and evening collection with risk to all including children staff and public road users.

No safe denoted car park on site for staff or visits. No segregation of traffic and personnel / children on school ground.

Currently the Board of Management is addressing these issues as a priority.

Current best practices at the moment are as follows:

- Gate supervisor on duty every morning between 9:00am and 9:30am.

- Children supervised on the school premises each morning from 9:10am until 9:30am.
- Due to the current Covid 19 health crisis there will be staggered home times for each class bubble the times are as follows

5th & 6th 3:10pm

1st & 2nd 3:15pm

3rd & 4th and Children on the main school bus 3:20pm

Each Class Bubble will be accompanied to the school gate by their class teacher and Mrs Galvin will accompany the children who are on the main school bus.

- Access to car park/playground is limited to staff and to parents on very wet days.
- Children are accompanied down to the gate by staff at 2:10pm (infants).
- Gate is closed each morning at 9:30am

#### **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 annually. 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson of Board of Management) (Principal)

Aughacasla National School

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

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

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