



CARLOW VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

KILKENNY ROAD
CARLOW

Child Protection Policy

Scope

This policy applies to the students, parents / guardians and staff of Carlow Vocational School.

Relationship to School's Mission / Vision / Aims

This policy works within the mission statement of Carlow Vocational School and is directly linked to its aim to promote a secure and caring community environment. The school's mission statement states:

Administration, staff and parents at Carlow Vocational School seek to promote a secure and caring community environment and a well-balanced curriculum, which is student centred, with parents recognised as the first educators and teachers as facilitators of the learning process. In partnership, we hope to provide an atmosphere, which encourages respect, responsibility and commitment, drawing forth the positive potential of each individual, thus equipping all students to take their place in life and work in the future.

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to give direction and guidance in the implementation of 'Children First' when dealing with allegations/suspensions of child abuse and neglect.

Policy Content

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and is 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 Carlow Vocational School 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 Markita Mulvey, Principal.
3. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) David Forde, Deputy Principal.
4. In its policies, practices and activities, Carlow Vocational 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. The following school policies, practices and activities are particularly relevant to child protection: Pastoral Care Policy and the Code of Conduct, Anti-Bullying Policy, Pupil Attendance Policy, Home School Community Liaison Policy, Critical Incident Policy, Student Support Policy.

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.

Review Procedures

This policy is reviewed regularly, as shown in the timeframe below, and as a result appropriate changes and improvements are made.

Timeframe

This policy was reviewed in April 2013.
Modifications were made and ratified by Board of Management May 2013.
Published and circulated May 2013.

The above Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Carlow Vocational School at a meeting

In: _____(venue) On: _____(date)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Secretary, Board of Management)