



HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

1.1 School Background Information

Scoil Mhuire in Clondalkin was officially opened in 1956 and provides a safe, friendly learning haven for girls and boys. Scoil Mhuire is a Catholic primary school. It is committed to the aims and principles of the revised (1999) primary school curriculum. It celebrates the uniqueness of each child as expressed in each child's personality, intelligence and potential for development. This school seeks to nurture the child in all dimensions of his/her life - spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional intelligence, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical.

This school seeks to cherish and challenge children in a safe, secure and attractive learning environment. The school aims to provide quality learning experiences that are engaging, enriching and enjoyable through a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

The school sees itself as an integral part of the parish community and in partnership with parents and the church, seeks to nurture the Catholic faith through religious education, preparation for the sacraments and through the ethos of the school. This ethos is best exemplified through the quality of all relationships in the school, which are based on dignity for each person: child, parents, teachers, staff and all visitors to the school.

Scoil Mhuire seeks to be a warm and welcoming place, respectful and accommodating of diversity in race, culture, religion, gender and ability. The school strives to provide an inclusive environment responsive to the needs of all. The school also aims to promote equality in all areas and to provide extra support for any child with a learning disability, difficulty or problem through the school's support structure.

The school also values its relationships with all parents and the local community and seeks to continue to work in partnership with all sections of the school community in order to ensure the best interests of each child are served. The school is a learning environment that promotes and values lifelong learning for all, including staff.

1.2 Objectives of Safety Statement

The objectives of this Safety Statement are as follows:

- To demonstrate the school's commitment in writing to safeguarding the health & safety of all staff, pupils, sub-contractors and visitors and to also ensuring that all health & safety laws and standards are reviewed and maintained.
- To provide a controlled document accessible to all Scoil Mhuire staff in order to record the evolution of the school's health & safety policy which becomes necessary due to the changing environment.
- To provide evidence that all policies used to ensure health & safety objectives are implemented & documented in order to assist those who must execute them, while also providing a reference for those who need to assess and audit the levels of health & safety being achieved.
- To help identify any training requirements that need to be fulfilled for suitably qualified personnel to carry out the policies contained within this manual.

Health & Safety Policy of Scoil Mhuire

It is the intention of the board of management that all school work and associated activities at Scoil Mhuire will be conducted in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005 and that all reasonable practicable measures will be taken to avoid risk to its teachers, contractors, pupils, visitors or others who may be affected.

The principal has the responsibility for implementing this policy and ensuring that all Health & Safety considerations are always given priority in planning and day to day supervision of work.

All staff members and contractors are expected to co-operate with the school management in carrying out this policy and must ensure that their own work, insofar as is reasonably practicable, is carried out without risk to themselves or others.

The safety representative shall represent the interests of all staff members and pupils with respect to health, safety & welfare and reference should be made to this person in the event of any difficulty arising in the implementation of this policy. The safety representative does not have responsibilities with respect to the implementation of health and safety in this school but is entitled to report on all safety issues that concern pupils, staff, parents and visitors to the principal / board of management.

The principal and school management will monitor the operation of this policy and this statement will be displayed prominently throughout the school. In addition the organisation and arrangements for implementing this policy will be available for reference for any staff member, sub-contractor, parent or visitor as required.

Carol Burke-Heneghan
Principal

Mary O Flaherty
Deputy Principal

Orla Fleming
Safety Representative

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY UPDATE

- Internal and external safety signage.
- Internal directional signage on corridors.
- First aid station for visitors to school now located in staff room.
- Yellow markings at front of school to indicate pedestrian walkway.
- New radiators fitted in PE Hall.
- Banisters and handrails fitted to steps of stage.
- Removal of furniture from upstairs corridor.
- Smoke alarm fitted in all classrooms, offices and passageways.
- Mats replaced at front door and on corridors (non-slip variety).
- Surge protection in all classrooms and offices.
- Trolley for lifting heavy materials.
- Step ladders for putting up artwork. Two on each corridor.
- Hand gel in all classrooms, corridors and bathrooms.
- New hand dryers and toilet roll dispensers in all bathrooms.
- A number of staff members completed a summer course on Health and Safety.
- A Health and Safety Week was held at the end of September for the school year 2010. An audit was carried out in each classroom and throughout the school to see what issues may need attention.
- A defibrillator was donated to the school by the Ciaran Carr Foundation and is fitted outside the Hall door. It is signalled by a green light and checked on a regular basis. The teachers who have undergone training are Carol Burke-Heneghan, Siobhan McKiernan, Niamh McMahan, Joanne Carr and Audrey Gelens.
- First Aid Course course taken by all staff in September 2013 by Emergency Services Institute of Ireland, Ballymount, Dublin 12. Certificates issued to all who completed training.
- Due to nut allergies, Scoil Mhuire has become a nut free zone. All nuts and nut products are now excluded from school. All teachers trained in the use of EpiPen in October 2014.