

PLEAN SCOILE
CASTLETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safety Statement

The Board of Management brings to the attention of its staff the following arrangements for safeguarding the safety, health and welfare of those employed and working in the school.

This policy requires the co-operation of all employees. It shall be reviewed annually or more frequently if necessary, in the light of experience, changes in legal requirements and operational changes. A safety audit shall be carried out annually by the Board of Management Safety Officers and a report made to staff. All records of accidents and ill-health will be monitored in order to ensure that any safety measures required can be put in place to minimise the recurrence of such accidents and ill-health.

The Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** wishes to ensure that as far as is reasonably practical:

- ◆ The design, provision and maintenance of all places in the school shall be safe and without risk to health.
- ◆ There shall be safe access to and from places of work.
- ◆ Plant and Machinery may be opened safely in so far as is possible.
- ◆ Work systems shall be planned, organised, performed and maintained so as to be safe and without risk to health.
- ◆ Staff shall be instructed and supervised in so far as is reasonably possible so as to ensure the health and safety at work of its employees.
- ◆ Protective clothing or equivalent shall be provided as is necessary to ensure the safety and health at work of its employees.
- ◆ Plans for emergencies shall be complied with and revised as necessary.
- ◆ This statement will be continually revised by the Board of Management as necessity arises, and shall be re-examined by the Board on at least an annual basis.
- ◆ Employees shall be consulted on matters of health and safety.
- ◆ Provisions shall be made for the election by the employees of a safety representative.

The Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** recognises that its statutory obligations under legislation extends to employees, students, to any person legitimately conducting school business, and to the public.

The Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** undertakes to ensure that the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 are adhered to:

Duties of Employees

It is the 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 or omissions while at work.
- (b) To co-operate with his/her employer and any other person to such extent as will enable his/her employer or the other person to comply with any of the relevant statutory provisions.

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- (c) To use in such manner so as to provide the protection intended, any suitable appliance, protective clothing, convenience, equipment or thing provided (whether for his/her lone use or for use by him/her in common with others) for securing his/her safety, health or welfare at work.
- (d) To report to the Board of Management without unreasonable delay, any defects in plant, equipment, place or work, or system of work, which might endanger safety, health or welfare of which he/she becomes aware.

No person will intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse any appliance, protective clothing, convenience or other means or thing provided in pursuance or any of the relevant statutory provisions or other wise, for securing safety, health or welfare or persons arising out of work activities.

Employees using available facilities and equipment provided should ensure that work practices are performed in the safest manner possible (see section 9 of safety, health and welfare at Work Act 1989).

Consultation and Information

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** to consult with staff in preparation and completion of hazard control forms, to give a copy of the safety statement to all present and future staff, and to convey any additional information or instructions regarding health, safety and welfare at work to all staff as it becomes available. Health, safety and welfare at work will be considered in any future staff training and development plans.

Hazards

Hazards shall be divided into two categories. Those which can be rectified will be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Those that cannot will be clearly indicated and appropriate procedures listed beside them. All hazards shall be eliminated in so far as resources and circumstances allow.

Fire

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that:

- (i) The Board of Management will ensure that an adequate supply of fire extinguishers, suitable for the type of fires likely to occur in each area, is available, identified and regularly serviced by authorised and qualified persons. Each fire extinguisher shall have instructions for its use.
- (ii) The principal will ensure that fire drills shall take place at least once a term.
- (iii) Fire alarms shall be clearly marked. (Responsibility of Board of Management Safety Officer)
- (iv) Signs shall be clearly visible to ensure that visitors are aware of exit doors and routes.(Staff Safety Officer)

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- (v) All doors, corridors, and entries shall be kept clear of obstruction and shall be able to be opened at all times from within the building. Each teacher who has an exit in her classroom must ensure it is kept clear. Corridors and main door – Principal will see they are free of obstruction.
- (vi) Assembly areas are designated outside the building, and the locations specified.
- (vii) Exit signs shall be clearly marked.
- (viii) All electrical equipment shall be left unplugged when unattended for lengthy periods and when the building is empty **except** computers / laptops and any machine which must be left plugged in. Teachers are responsible for their own classroom. The secretary/Principal, as appropriate, is responsible for the office. Staff room is every teacher's responsibility. Cleaner to check when cleaning.
- (ix) Principal shall be responsible for fire drills and evacuation procedures.
- (x) All recommendations made by a Fire Officer in addition to these provisions shall be implemented.

The following hazards (in so much as can be identified) are considered by the Board of Management to be a source of potential danger and are brought to the attention of all concerned.

1. Wet corridors
2. Climbing frames
3. Trailing leads
4. Typewriters, Computers
5. Guillotine
6. Projectors
7. Fuse Board
8. Electric kettles
9. Boiler house
10. Ladders
11. Excess gravel on school yard
12. Protruding units and fittings
13. Slabs around perimeter of school
14. Icy surfaces on a cold day
15. Mats in hall
16. Windows opening out

To minimise these dangers the following safety/ protective measures must be adhered to (see duties of employee pages 1-2 of this document):

- (a) Access to and operation of plant/equipment is restricted to qualified members of the staff, whose job function is that of running, maintaining, cleaning and monitoring particular items of plant in the course of their normal duties. Copies of this Safety Statement will be

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sent to all contractors prior to contract by the Principal/Board of Management. Any other contractors entering the school must be shown a copy of the schools Safety Statement and shall adhere to its provisions.

- (b) In addition all such plant and machinery is to be used in strict accordance with the manufactures instructions and recommendations.
- (c) Where applicable Board of Management will ensure that members of the staff will have been instructed in the correct use of plant, machinery and equipment.
- (d) All machinery and electrical equipment are fitted with adequate safeguards.
- (e) Precautionary notices, in respect of safety matters are displayed at relevant points.
- (f) Ladders must be used with another person's assistance.
- (g) Avoid use of glass bottles where possible by pupils. Remove broken glass immediately on discovery
- (h) Board of Management will check that floors are clean, even, non-slip and splinter-proof.
- (i) Sports co-ordinator will check that PE equipment is stacked securely and in positioned so as not to cause a hazard.
- (j) Check that all PE and other mats are in good condition.
- (k) An annual routine for inspecting furniture, floors, apparatus, equipment and fittings. Board of Management Safety Officer (Mr.Seamus Hooban) and Staff Safety Representative (Deputy Principal Ms. Marie Phelan).
- (l) Check that there are no uneven/broken/cracked paving slabs. Caretaker under Board of Management.
- (m) Will check that roofs, guttering, drain pipes etc as far as can be seen are sound and well maintained. Board of Management Safety Officer.
- (n) Teachers check that manholes are safe.
- (o) Check that all play areas, especially sand pits, are kept clean and free from glass before use.
- (p) Check that outside lighting works and is sufficient. Board of Management.
- (q) Check that all builder's materials, caretakers' maintenance equipment, external stores etc are stored securely. Principal and Board of Management Safety Officer.
- (r) Check that refuse is removed from building each day and is carefully stored outside. Caretaker.

Constant Hazards

Machinery, Kitchen equipment, Electrical appliances.

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that machinery, kitchen equipment and electrical appliances are to be used only by competent and authorised persons. Such appliances and equipment will be subject to regular maintenance checks.

Electrical Appliances

Arrangements will be made for all appliances to be checked on a regular basis at least annually by a competent person (i.e.) maintenance person, the supplier or his agent. Before using any appliance the user should check that:

- ◆ All safety guards which are a normal part of the appliance are in working order
- ◆ Power supply cables/leads are in tact and free of cuts or abrasions.
- ◆ Unplug leads of appliances when not in use.
- ◆ Suitable undamaged fused plug tops are used and fitted with the correct fuse.

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- ◆ Follow official guidelines issued by the Health and Safety Authority.

Chemicals

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that all chemicals, photocopier toner, detergents etc be stored in clearly identifiable containers bearing instructions and precautions for their use and shall be kept in a locked area, and protection provided to be used when handling them. (Secretary/Cleaner/Principal where appropriate).

Drugs And Medication

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that all drugs, medications, etc be kept in a secure cabinet, locked at all times and the key kept in a separate and secure place and used only by trained and authorised personnel.

Welfare

To ensure the continued welfare of the staff and children, toilet and cloakroom areas are provided. A Staffroom separate from the work area is provided, where tea and lunch breaks may be taken. Staff must co-operate in maintaining a high standard of hygiene in this area.

A high standard of hygiene must be achieved at all times. Adequate facilities for waste disposal must be available. An adequate supply of hot and cold water, towels and soap and sanitary disposal facilities must be available.

Members of staff and students are reminded:

- (a) A person who is under medical supervision or on prescribed medication and who has been certified fit for work, should notify the school of any known side effect or temporary physical disabilities which could hinder their work performance and which may be a danger to either themselves or their fellow workers. The school will arrange or assign appropriate tasks for the person to carry out in the interim.
- (b) Staff and students are not allowed to attend the premises or carry out duties whilst under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol. Any person found breaking this rule will be liable to disciplinary action.

Positive Work Environment

The Board of Management of Castletown Primary School is committed to provide a positive work environment, in light of the Employer's obligations as outlined in Section 8 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, including the duty to manage work activities in such a way as to prevent, "improper conduct or behaviour" likely to put health and safety at risk. (see Appendix 1)

Highly Polished Floors

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that every attempt will be made to avoid the creation of slippery surfaces. The washing of floors shall be conducted, as far as is possible, after school hours to eliminate as far as possible, the danger of slipping. Where floors are wet, warning signs regarding wet floors shall be used. Attention

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is drawn to the possibility of outside floors and surfaces being affected by frost in cold weather, and staff and pupils shall be told to use handrails when going up or down stairs. Step edges shall be fitted with clearly marked edges of a non-slip nature wherever practical.

Smoking

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that the school shall be a non-smoking area to avoid hazard to staff and pupils of passive smoking.

Broken Glass

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

Visual Display Units

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that the advice contained in the guidelines on the safe operation of visual display units, issued by the Health and Safety Authority be carefully followed. Any up-to-date information regarding hazards relating to the use of VDU's will be studied and recommendations and directives implement

Infectious Diseases

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary 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 principals 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.

First Aid

It is the policy of the Board of Management of **Castletown Primary School** that a member of staff shall be trained to provide First Aid to staff and pupils.

(1) Notices are posted in office detailing:

- arrangements for giving first aid,
- location of first aid boxes,
- procedure of calling ambulances etc....,
- telephone numbers of local Doctor, Gardaí, Hospital.

(2) All incidents, no matter how trivial and whether to employees or to students or to members of the public must be reported immediately to the person responsible for the hazard identified in the Statement or in the event that the accident/incident occurs in any other place to which that paragraph dealing with hazards does not relate to the Safety Officer. This is necessary to monitor the progress of safety standards and to ensure that the proper medical attention is given where required. An Accident Report File is to be maintained for the recording of all accidents and incidents by the Safety Officer.

Safety Officer will see that there will be maintained in the school a properly equipped First Aid Box available to staff at all times containing:

- sticking plasters
- Anti-histamine for Stings, etc.

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When the Principal / Deputy Principal are satisfied that all pupils are accounted for, he/she may attempt to extinguish the fire using the fire extinguishers, if they consider it safe to do so.

The Fire Drill procedure is reviewed each year.

Ratified by the Board of Management : 18th June 19

Signed: William J. Hennessy
Chairperson Board of Management

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Roll Call for Fire Drill Procedure 2019 – 2020

List 1

Junior and Senior Infants

Third Class

List 2

First and Second Class

Fourth and Fifth Class

Sixth Class

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Policy on Illness and Injury is attached to the Safety Statement

The staff recognises that it has no particular expertise in the matter of injury or illness. However, in spite of this, the teachers must act and make decisions, on the basis of common sense, if a child becomes ill or receives an injury in school. In this situation, we agree that we will aspire to act as a prudent parent would.

In deciding whether an injury or illness is serious enough to warrant action beyond the scope of the school, our policy is to get the opinion of at least two members of the staff. If in doubt, the parents or the officially delegated contact people will be contacted. A list of these people is maintained in the Staff Room. In case of emergency, if no contact can be made with the parent or other contact authorised by the parents, the child will be brought to the doctor/hospital.

Procedures

Where the injury is regarded as potentially serious, the child is left in a prone position pending further investigation;

In normal circumstances, the minor scratches or cuts will be cleaned and dressed by the teacher in charge. The injured child will be closely monitored for signs of distress;

The child will be brought from play area and seated, if considered necessary.

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- Tape
- Disinfectant (e.g.) Savlon
- Eye lotion (e.g.) Optrex
- Antiseptic cream
- Cotton Bandage
- Cream for First Aid treatment of Burns
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Scissors
- First Aid Chart

Disposable gloves must be used at all times in administering First Aid

Access to School

In as much as is compatible with the practical layout of the school premises, anyone entering the school premises shall be required to identify themselves to the Principal or the Secretary as relevant before gaining admittance to the school. Any contractor must make direct contact with the Principal before initiating any work on the premises and shall be shown a copy of the safety statement applying to the school and shall agree to its provisions.

While work is in progress, any noise shall be avoided wherever possible during school hours and shall at all times be reduced to the minimum necessary. The contractor and his workmen shall not create any hazard, permanent or temporary, without informing the principal or his nominated agent and shall mark such hazard with warning signs or other suitable protection.

Collecting Children

- (1) All parent/guardians/carers in the interest of safety must obey all signs upon entering the school grounds.
- (2) Cars are advised to drive slowly when delivering / collecting children.
- (3) Those parking outside the school grounds are advised to accompany children to and from the school premises.

Revision of This Safety Statement

This statement shall be regularly revised by the Board Of Management of **Castletown Primary School** in accordance with experience and the requirements of the Health and Safety Act and the Health and Safety Authority.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairman: William J. Hennessy Date: 18th June 19
Principal: Margaret (Mandy) Kennedy Date: 18th June 2019
Safety Officer: Seamus Hooban Date: 18/6/19 Nominee of BOM
Safety Officer: Howe Cuddy Date: 19/6/19 Nominee of staff

Policy statement in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989

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Safety Officer: Seamus Hooban

Staff Nominee: Ms. Fiona Cuddy

Prepared by representatives of the Board of Management, in consultation with parents and teachers in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare Act at Work Act 1989

An audit was carried out by Mr. Seamus Hooban and Ms. Fiona Cuddy in 12th June 2019. They will carry out an audit annually and report their findings to the board.

Policy statement in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989

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*General
Duties of
Employer*

Appendix 1

8.—(1) Every employer shall ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of his or her employees.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of *subsection (1)*, the employer's duty extends, in particular, to the following:

- (a) managing and conducting work activities in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of his or her employees;
- (b) managing and conducting work activities in such a way as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, any improper conduct or behaviour likely to put the safety, health or welfare at work of his or her employees at risk;
- (c) as regards the place of work concerned, ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable—
 - (i) the design, provision and maintenance of it in a condition that is safe and without risk to health,
 - (ii) the design, provision and maintenance of safe means of access to and egress from it, and
 - (iii) the design, provision and maintenance of plant and machinery or any other articles that are safe and without risk to health;
- (d) ensuring, so far as it is reasonably practicable, the safety and the prevention of risk to health at work of his or her employees relating to the use of any article or substance or the exposure to noise, vibration or ionising or other radiations or any other physical agent;
- (e) providing systems of work that are planned, organised, performed, maintained and revised as appropriate so as to be, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risk to health;
- (f) providing and maintaining facilities and arrangements for the welfare of his or her employees at work;
- (g) providing the information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health, and welfare at work of his or her employees;
- (h) determining and implementing the safety, health and welfare measures necessary for the protection of the safety, health and welfare of his or her employees when identifying hazards and carrying out a risk assessment under [section 19](#) or when preparing a safety statement under [section 20](#) and ensuring that the measures take account of changing circumstances and the general principles of prevention specified in [Schedule 3](#) ;
- (i) having regard to the general principles of prevention in *Schedule 3*, where risks cannot be eliminated or adequately controlled or in such circumstances as may be prescribed, providing and maintaining such suitable protective clothing and equipment as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of his or her employees;

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- (j) preparing and revising, as appropriate, adequate plans and procedures to be followed and measures to be taken in the case of an emergency or serious and imminent danger;
 - (k) reporting accidents and dangerous occurrences, as may be prescribed, to the Authority or to a person prescribed under [section 33](#), as appropriate, and
 - (l) obtaining, where necessary, the services of a competent person (whether under a contract of employment or otherwise) for the purpose of ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of his or her employees.
- (3) Any duty imposed on an employer under the relevant statutory provisions in respect of any of his or her employees shall also apply in respect of the use by him or her of the services of a fixed-term employee or a temporary employee.
- (4) For the duration of the assignment of any fixed-term employee or temporary employee working in his or her undertaking, it shall be the duty of every employer to ensure that working conditions are such as will protect the safety, health and welfare at work of such an employee.
- (5) Every employer shall ensure that any measures taken by him or her relating to safety, health and welfare at work do not involve financial cost to his or her employees.

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Policy of Castletown Primary School on the Administration of Medication to Pupils is attached to the Safety Statement

As a general rule teachers should not be involved in the administration of medication but where they must become involved the following procedures should be adhered to:

- the teacher must obtain authorisation from the Board of Management to administer the medication;
- the teacher should not administer medication unless so authorised by the Board of Management;
- the parent(s) should be directed to write to the Board of Management informing the Board of the medication required to be administered with a view to the Board authorising the Teachers accordingly;
- if the teachers are so authorised they should be properly instructed by the Board of Management. To that end written instructions should be obtained by the Board from the parent(s).
- in administering medication to pupils, teachers should exercise the standard of care of a reasonable and prudent parent.
- The Board of Management should inform the school's insurers accordingly.
- The Board of Management should seek an indemnity from the parents / guardians in respect of any liability that may arise regarding the administration of the medication.

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Procedure on Fire Drill 2019-2020 – Attached to the Safety Statement

Equipment:

Fire Extinguishers – 1 6kg powder

4 2kg CO2

1 5kg CO2 (boiler) automatic

1 4kg powder

1 9kg water based extinguisher

1 4kg water based extinguisher

Fire Blanket - 1 1mx1m Fire Blanket (staff room)

Signs – 4 CO2 signs

1 Powder sign

1 Fire Blanket Sign

6 Fire Point Signs

2 Assembly Meeting Points

Accident Report Book

All equipment serviced regularly by Apex Fire Ltd.

2 Roll-Call Data Sheets – a) Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Third Class

b) First and Second class, Fourth and Fifth Class, Sixth Class.

At least twice annually, fire drill is practised by teachers and pupils. The following is the agreed procedure:

The fire alarm will alert all to the outbreak of fire in the building. All pupils immediately stand up, put in their chairs and fall into line.

The teacher determines which exit should be used and informs the pupils.

Third Class – Emergency exit door outside classroom.

Junior and Senior Infants – Use main exit door

First and Second Class – Classroom emergency door

Fourth and Fifth Class – Use back door

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Sixth Class – Use Emergency door at the end of the classroom unless informed otherwise by the principal / deputy principal.

Children and teacher in S.E.T. room leave the building through the emergency exit across the hall from the room.

Anyone in the staffroom leave through back door.

Then, at the teacher's command, all march outside in an orderly fashion to the designated assembly areas (2 fire points – one in front yard and one on school field) in the school grounds.

The Principal Teacher Margaret Kennedy Phelan (Senior end) / Deputy Principal (Junior end) check all classrooms, toilets, cloakrooms and assembly area, to ensure that all personnel have vacated the building. They also close all doors and windows to prevent the fire spreading, if it is safe to do so.

The remaining teachers accompany the pupils to the assembly areas to ensure that they follow the proper procedures.

The B Postholder Ms. Lyons. hurries to the school phone (if safe), or otherwise to her own mobile phone to ring the Emergency Services (999). When contact is made, the following message is delivered loudly and clearly: "There's a fire at Castletown Primary School Elderfield, Castletown, County Laois. The Fire Brigade is needed immediately." When the message is confirmed, Ms. Lyons. returns to the designated assembly point without delay. Ms. Doyle and Ms. Ozenbrook, call the roll in the assembly areas. Each pupil answers loudly and clearly her/his name. If a name remains unanswered, having been called twice, the teacher circles it and proceeds with the roll. The S.E.T. accompany their pupils to the fire point area designated for their pupils. When the roll call is complete, the following message is delivered to the Principal / Deputy Principal ..."All pupils accounted for" or "All pupils except A.N. Other accounted for."

When the roll call is complete, all pupils are directed to remain at the assembly point.

If a pupil is unaccounted for, the Principal / Deputy Principal return to the building to carry out a thorough search for the missing child.