

Mission Statement

Ard Scoil Chiaráin Naofa promotes the holistic educational development of all within the school community. We strive for academic excellence and aim to maximise the potential of each individual in a safe, caring and respectful environment.

Safety Statement

The primary objective of the School Authorities is to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment for staff, students and visitors.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Responsibility

- Comply, as far as is reasonably practical, the safety, health and welfare at work of his or her employees and the legal obligations set out as employer under the 2005 Act;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
 - 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;
 - providing and maintaining facilities and arrangements for the welfare of his or her employees at work;
 - 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;
 - 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 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;
 - 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;
 - 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;
 - reporting accidents and dangerous occurrences, as may be prescribed, to the Authority or to a person prescribed under section 33, as appropriate, and
 - 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.

Board of Management Responsibility

The Board of Management responsibilities are as follows:

- complies with its legal obligations as employer under the 2005 Act;
- ensures that the school has written risk assessments and an up to date safety statement;
- reviews the implementation of the safety statement;
- sets health and safety objectives;
- receives regular reports on safety and health matters and matters arising from same are discussed;
- reviews the safety statement at least annually and implement changes that are required for workers' safety;
- reviews the school's health and safety performance;
- allocates adequate resources to deal with health and safety issues;
- appoints competent persons as necessary, to advise and assist the Board of Management/ETB on safety and health at the school.

Principal's Responsibility

Ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the school's Safety rests with the Principal Mr Roger Geagan.

The principal's responsibilities are as follows:

- Manages safety and health in the school on a day-to-day basis;
- Comply as far as reasonably practical with the requirements of the 2005 Act;
- Shall ensure as far as is reasonably practical, that the place of work, the means of access thereto, or egress therefrom, and any article or substance provide for use in the place of work, are safe and without risk to health.
- Shall ensure all accidents and incidents are reported to the LOETB and investigated with all relevant statutory reports completed;
Organise relevant training with appropriate registers maintained;
- Participates in the Safety Committee where one is established.

- Record all reportable accidents to staff and dangerous occurrences within the buildings and grounds. This is done on the standard “Accident Report Form” as are enclosed in Appendix 1 of the Safety Statement;
- Shall send the forms to Laois Offaly ETB who in turn shall send the forms to the Health and Safety Authority;
- Report accidents involving staff which result in absence from work for more than 3 consecutive days directly to the Health and Safety Authority via the online system.

Deputy Principal Responsibility

The Deputy Principal Ms. Miriam Hickey responsibilities are as follows:

- In the absence of the Principal, assume the responsibilities of the Principal.
- Ensure that Safety, Health and Welfare is given due consideration for all activities.

Safety Representative Responsibilities

Employees may, from time to time, select and appoint from amongst their number at their place of work a representative (in this Act referred to as a “safety representative”) or, by agreement with their employer, more than one safety representative, to represent them at the place of work in consultation with their employer on matters related to safety, health and welfare at the place of work.

(2) A safety representative may—

- inspect the whole or any part of the place of work—
 - (i) subject to *subsection (3) of the 2005 Act*, after giving reasonable notice to the employer, or
 - (ii) immediately, in the event of an accident, dangerous occurrence or imminent danger or risk to the safety, health and welfare of any person,
- investigate accidents and dangerous occurrences provided that he or she does not interfere with or obstruct the performance of any statutory

obligation required to be performed by any person under any of the relevant statutory provisions,

- after the giving of reasonable notice to the employer, investigate complaints relating to safety, health and welfare at work made by any employee whom he or she represents,
- accompany an inspector who is carrying out an inspection of the place of work other than an inspection for the purpose of investigating an accident or dangerous occurrence,
- at the discretion of the inspector concerned, accompany an inspector who is carrying out an inspection for the purpose of investigating an accident or dangerous occurrence,
- at the discretion of the inspector concerned, where an employee is interviewed by an inspector with respect to an accident or dangerous occurrence at a place of work, attend the interview where the employee so requests,
- make representations to the employer on any matter relating to safety, health and welfare at the place of work,
- make oral or written representations to inspectors on matters relating to safety, health and welfare at the place of work, including the investigation of accidents or dangerous occurrences,
- receive advice and information from inspectors on matters relating to safety, health and welfare at the place of work, or
- consult and liaise on matters relating to safety, health and welfare at work with any other safety representatives who may be appointed in the undertaking concerned, whether or not those safety representatives work in the same place of work, in different places of work under the control of the employer or at different times at the place of work.

(3) The employer and the safety representative shall, having regard to the nature and extent of the hazards in the place of work, agree the frequency or schedule of inspections which may be carried out under *subsection (2)(a)(i) of the 2005 Act*, which agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld by the employer.

(4) Every employer shall consider any representations made to him or her by the safety representative in relation to the matters specified in this section or any other matter relating to the safety, health and welfare at work of his or her employees and, so far as is reasonably practicable, take any action that he or she considers necessary or appropriate with regard to those representations.

(5) An employer shall give to a safety representative such time off from his or her work as is reasonable having regard to all the circumstances, without loss of remuneration, to enable the safety representative—

- to acquire, on an ongoing basis, the knowledge and training necessary to discharge his or her functions as a safety representative, and
- to discharge those functions.

(6) Where an inspector attends at a place of work for the purpose of carrying out an inspection, the employer shall inform the safety representative that the inspection is taking place.

Safety representatives will not be placed at any disadvantage as a result of fulfilling their role.

Safety Committee Responsibilities

A Health and Safety Committee (hereinafter Safety Committee) facilitates the consultation process on safety, health and welfare matters in a centre.

Employees have the right to make representations to and consult their employer on matters relating to their safety, health and welfare at work.

Where, in a place of work by agreement of the employer, there is a group of persons (by whatever name known) representative of the employer and the employees that constitutes a safety committee in compliance with *Schedule 4 of the 2005 Act* and that exists for the purpose of consultation regarding the safety, health and welfare at work of the employees, consultation within that group of persons may, to such extent as may be agreed between the employer and his or her employees, fulfil the requirements of *subsections (1) and (2)* of the Act.

Consideration shall be given to any representations made by employees in relation to matters relating to their safety, health or welfare at work and, so far as is reasonably practicable, take any action that he or she considers necessary or appropriate with regard to those representations.

Employees involved in arrangements for consultation will be given such time off from their duties as is reasonable having regard to all the circumstances, without loss of remuneration, to enable those employees—

- (a) to acquire the knowledge and training necessary to discharge their functions under this section, and
- (b) to discharge those functions.

Where a safety committee is established as a means of consulting with employees, it should ideally be comprised of a minimum of;

- Principal;
- Members of Staff (elected by staff);
- Safety Representative.

The Safety Committee will also consider any of the other items arising under Section 26 (1) (b) of the Health and Safety and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

All Employees

(1) Comply as far as reasonably practical with the requirements under the 2005 Act.

An employee shall, while at work—

a) comply with the relevant statutory provisions, as appropriate, and take reasonable care to protect his or her safety, health and welfare and the safety, health and welfare of any other person who may be affected by the employee's acts or omissions at work,

(b) ensure that he or she is not under the influence of an intoxicant to the extent that he or she is in such a state as to endanger his or her own safety, health or welfare at work or that of any other person,

(c) if reasonably required by his or her employer, submit to any appropriate, reasonable and proportionate tests for intoxicants by, or under the supervision of, a registered medical practitioner who is a competent person, as may be prescribed,

(d) co-operate with his or her employer or any other person so far as is necessary to enable his or her employer or the other person to comply with the relevant statutory provisions, as appropriate,

(e) not engage in improper conduct or other behaviour that is likely to endanger his or her own safety, health and welfare at work or that of any other person,

(f) attend such training and, as appropriate, undergo such assessment as may reasonably be required by his or her employer or as may be prescribed relating to safety, health and welfare at work or relating to the work carried out by the employee,

(g) having regard to his or her training and the instructions given by his or her employer, make correct use of any article or substance provided for use by the employee at work or for the protection of his or her safety, health and welfare at work, including protective clothing or equipment,

(h) report to his or her employer or to any other appropriate person, as soon as practicable—

- (i) any work being carried on, or likely to be carried on, in a manner which may endanger the safety, health or welfare at work of the employee or that of any other person,
- (ii) any defect in the place of work, the systems of work, any article or substance which might endanger the safety, health or welfare at work of the employee or that of any other person, or
- (iii) any contravention of the relevant statutory provisions which may endanger the safety, health and welfare at work of the employee or that of any other person,

of which he or she is aware.

(2) An employee shall not, on entering into a contract of employment, misrepresent himself or herself to an employer with regard to the level of training as may be prescribed under *subsection (1)(f) of the 2005 Act*.

Students Responsibilities

Present in all school journals is a section outlining the student's role of responsibility in health and safety in the school.

All students must:

- take reasonable care of, and cooperate with actions taken to protect, the health and safety of both themselves and others
- follow safe work practices, including the proper use of any personal protective equipment supplied.
- seek information or advice from a staff member before performing new or unfamiliar tasks.
- report all health and safety accidents, incidents and hazards to a staff member as soon as is practicable
- follow the emergency evacuation procedures

Students will be advised of any relevant health and safety procedures and are required to comply with the staff and Board of Management in implementing these.

First Aid Responder (FAR)

Part 7, Chapter 2 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 deals with the issue of first-aid within the workplace. The employer has a duty to provide first-aid equipment at all places of work where working conditions require it.

The training of First Aid Responders and equipment in all centre's is a responsibility that the LOETB places a high value on. In accordance with Health and Safety Regulations, all First Aid Responders are required to complete the appropriate training courses in order to administer first aid in a workplace setting.

As and from 1st June 2018, the HSA only recognises Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council First Aid Response (PHECC FAR) as meeting the needs of Occupational First Aid in workplaces. This is a foundation first aid course that trains course participants to provide first aid for a person who becomes suddenly unwell or injured until the arrival of emergency medical services. FAR includes the full Cardiac First Response Community standard also. This means

that learners who undergo training from 1st June 2018 must complete a PHECC FAR full or refresher course. However, any QQI OFA training which took place prior to 31st May 2018 will be recognised for the full 2-year duration from the date of training. The Safety Committee as part of its annual review shall consider the training needs for FAR staff.

The list of qualified FAR's is available on school/centre noticeboards.

The centre has provided suitable first aid kits which are located throughout the centre. It is the responsibility of the FAR (s) to maintain the first aid kits and appropriate records in accordance with their training.

Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are provided as life-saving devices which can prevent death arising from sudden cardiac arrest. Training is also provided to identified staff members. Staff trained in the use of defibrillators will be responsible to ensure the units are maintained to appropriate standards and where they are not maintained to bring it to the attention of the principal for rectification.

Fire Wardens

The duties and responsibilities of all employees acting as Fire Wardens are outlined as follows:

General Duties of a school/centre fire warden:

The general responsibilities of a fire warden are to reduce the risk of fire within the centre and ensure that emergency routes and equipment are appropriately maintained. This includes:

- Identifying and removing fire hazards on centre premises;
- Ensuring escape routes are kept clear of obstruction;
- Checking fire doors are clear, both inside and out and are never locked;
- Ensuring appropriate maintenance and servicing of firefighting equipment;
- Maintaining accurate information on fire hazards within their designated area to present to fire fighters in the event of a fire;

- Reporting any problems with the above to the Centre Manager and ensuring action is taken.

Duties of a centre fire warden – during a fire:

In the event of an emergency, it is the responsibility of individual staff members to evacuate their classrooms/areas of work and place of work. The role of the school fire warden is to support this, providing a second level of protection. The fire warden should:

- Raise the alarm or make sure it has been raised by someone else;
- Check their designated section of the premises after the main evacuation to ensure no one has been left behind (including toilets and store rooms where learners/staff may have sought refuge);
- Shut down dangerous equipment, close windows and shut fire doors where it is safe to do so;
- Use firefighting equipment if it is safe to do so and they are confident in its operation;
- Liaise with fire fighters as to the location of the fire and the risks specific to that area of the centre.

Visitors

Students, parents, volunteers and visitors must comply with the centre's safety statement and instructions relating to safety, health and welfare.

It is a requirement that the centre gives at least the same level of health, safety and welfare to students, and all visitors as it gives to employees.

Visitors should be directed to take notice of emergency exit routes from all levels of premises and be aware of alarm signals.

In the event of an emergency, all students / visitors should be instructed to follow directions with regard to evacuation of the premises or follow staff members to a safe exit route.

Contractors

All contractors working in or on behalf of the centre have a duty to comply with statutory obligations as designated under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007-2016, and any other relevant legislation such as the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013. Substantial construction projects e.g., extension, summer works, are generally undertaken centrally by LOETB on behalf of the centre. Such circumstances are generally where:

- There is more than one contractor involved in the work;
- The work is scheduled to last more than 30 days (or 500 person days); or
- There is a particular risk involved.

Where substantial projects are identified LOETB will ensure compliance with the relevant regulations and will advise the school in respect of same.

From time to time the centre will call on the services of the smaller contracting company to carry out a variety of such construction tasks e.g., plumber, electrician or carpenter etc. Where this work involves a single contractor, there are no particular risks present and task duration will not exceed 30 working days or 500 person days, to comply with safety and health requirements and to ensure this type of work is carried out safely with minimal disruptions, the following key points should be followed:

The centre will:

- Ensure that the contractor is suitably qualified, experienced and where appropriate registered with a suitably recognised craft body;
- Make available the relevant parts of its safety statement and safety file (where one exists) to any contractors working in the centre on behalf of the centre;
- Provide to contractors the centre's safety statement and instructions relating to safety, health and welfare;
- Be aware of the contractor's duty to make available to the centre the relevant parts of the contractor's safety statement and risk assessments in relation to the work being carried out;

- Co-operate and coordinate their activities in order to prevent risks to safety, health and welfare where it is sharing a workplace with a contractor.

Centre personnel may inspect any contractors' operations at any time and will have the power to stop any activity on safety grounds.

Contractors must report all accidents and near misses, no matter how minor, to their centre contact as soon as possible thereafter and cooperate with any investigation into the incident. They must not interfere with any centre equipment unless they have received prior approval.

All equipment brought into centre grounds by contractors must be safe to use, have all safety guards in place, be accompanied by all necessary certificates where required and not represent a danger to any staff, students or visitors when in use.

Health and Wellbeing

General Health and Hygiene

- Parents/guardians should not send a child to school who is sick or who may have a contagious infection.
- While the Board of Management encourage full attendance, parents/guardians should use their best judgment in deciding if a child is sick and therefore should not be in school.
- Should a teacher, acting *in loco parentis*, determine that a child is sick and should not be in school, he/she will inform the principal for a second opinion. The parent/guardian will, if necessary, be contacted to collect the child during the school day. If the parents/guardians are not available, the emergency contact will be contacted to collect the child. If the emergency contact is not available, medical assistance may be sought by the school.
- Parents/guardians are required to inform the school of any on-going health problems that the child may have and the medications being used.

- Parents/guardians are asked to give details of any immediate health problem that a pupil may have and the medications being used. Medication should be provided to the school, stored safely in case of an emergency were the pupil may require it.
- In case of a food allergy, either a doctor's certificate or a report from a qualified professional is required.
- If pupils have a medical condition which may affect their work at school, parents should inform the school. This is particularly important with any physical, hearing or eyesight problems.

School Layout & Fire Safety Evacuation Plan



